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And That's the Way It Was

1920-1980

COVER Myrtle Swindell (Home Economics Agent in Hertford County from 1918-1928) teaching a group of 4-H girls.

And That's the Way It Was
1920 - 1980

**The 60-year history of Extension home economics
work in North Carolina**

Edited by:

Janice R. Christensen
A. Maynard Deekens

Published by
the
North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.

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Acknowledgement

I wish to express deep appreciation to the history gatherers from each of our 100 counties and Cherokee Reservation and to acknowledge the other members of the state committee: Mrs. Pennie P. Battle, Mrs. Amelia C. Brown, Miss Janice R. Christensen, Mrs. Ada B. Dalla Pozza, Mr. A. Maynard Deekens, Mrs. Eugenia P. Van Landingham and Mrs. Hazel Valentine.


Mrs. Herman Cornett
Chairman

The history of the N. C. Extension Homemakers Association, Inc. reviews the work of Extension Homemakers based on the recollections of agents and members.

Fortunately, many counties had compiled county histories as a means of celebrating their anniversary dates and were able to submit a wealth of material. However, with agent turnover, fires and floods, much valuable information and rich histories have been lost.

It is the committee's hope that future Extension Homemakers will enjoy the rich heritage they have inherited.

Mrs. Ada B. Dalla Pozza
Advisor to the N. C. Extension
Homemakers Association, Inc.



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Introduction

by
Eugenia P. VanLandingham,
Retired Home Economics Agent
Edgecombe County

The Home Economics Extension Service has provided the families of North Carolina with a rich, exciting and on-going educational program for more than 60 years. The growth and development of this unique method of teaching has been phenomenal in all 100 counties of the state and on the Cherokee Reservation. The program has had great public appeal because it has been based on the needs and wants of people. It was first designed to benefit the rural homemakers and



Eugenia P. VanLandingham

their families but plans now include the needs and wants of all families. Most of the work is carried on through community organizations, training schools, workshops and conferences in the office or home.

Thousands upon thousands of people have lived more fruitful and satisfying lives because the programs "started with families where they were, with what they had." Progress was achieved by using information that had been tested and re-searched, keeping in mind

family goals and objectives. Results were measured by family records and achievements.

To appreciate what home demonstration work, as it was called in the early days, has meant to families in our state we must understand step-by-step how it developed and grew from an idea of a great educator, the late Dr. Seamon A. Knapp in the early 1900's.

Let us recall that the farm homemaker's role in the early years of the century was not an easy one. It was filled with great responsibilities, large families, drudgery and hardships with little cash flowing into farmers' pocketbooks.

Demonstration Farms

Because of what had been accomplished through demonstration farms in a resettlement project in Louisiana, Dr. Knapp was appointed in 1902 to serve in the United States Bureau of Plant Industry, which at that time was trying to secure the adoption of better farming practices in the South. Dr. Knapp's "demonstration farms" in Louisiana had satisfied the Bureau that this was the way of getting research to the farmers that they would accept.

Dr. Knapp was 70 years old before undertaking Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work, and he came to it magnificently equipped, for it had been said that "he spent 70 years preparing for 7 years of the great work of his life."

At this time cotton was king of money crops on southern farms. The destructive boll weevil arrived in Texas in 1903 and spread rapidly over the cotton growing states, which brought financial tragedy to the farmers. A large appropriation was made by Congress to fight the boll weevil. The Secretary of Agriculture, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and others were convinced that the demonstration method of teaching was the way to work toward destroying and controlling the boll weevil. On January 25, 1904 Dr. Knapp was directed to open offices in Houston, Texas.

We have an Agricultural Extension Service today because of Dr. Knapp's revolutionary movement in education, and out-of-the-class room setting for teaching people on the farm and in the home to use practical and useful information proven by the demonstration method in solving problems and meeting needs. This successful method of teaching came about because of Dr. Knapp's concern and foresight for the southern farmers to improve agricultural and homemaking procedures. This adult educational movement caught quickly the attention of southern farmers, their wives, sons and daughters.

Knapp's Work in Texas

Dr. Knapp placed demonstrations on good farms all over Texas in 1904 to 1907. He said, "you may doubt what you hear, you may even doubt what you see, but you cannot doubt what you hear, see, and are permitted to do for yourself." The results of what was accomplished through community demonstration farms spread to Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. This opened the eyes of farmers to the benefits of diversified farming and to the production of the family's food supply. The demonstration method of teaching was rapidly accepted, so that whole farms from cornfields to comfortable homes served as proof of the soundness of Dr. Knapp's philosophy of education.

At this time the General Board of Education in the United States headed by Dr. Wallace Buttrick, Secretary to the Board, became in-

terested in rural southern schools and had heard of Dr. Knapp's demonstration work in the boll weevil states. He arranged a conference with Dr. Knapp to discuss with him his methods of procedure and he was so impressed that he said, "I have found the answer to our search."

Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture at the time, was approached regarding support for demonstration work. On April 20, 1906, an agreement was signed stating that the General Education Board would finance work outlined and under Dr. Knapp's supervision in states not yet infested by the boll weevil. "This agreement had a profound effect on the development of demonstration work," according to O. B. Martin, Assistant Supervisor of Youth Work on the Federal level.

Dr. Knapp was able to match board funds with thousands of dollars from county boards of education, chambers of commerce and various other organizations for the promotion of demonstration work with farmers and their sons, but he met an obstacle when he went to the Secretary of Agriculture with a request for the appointment of a state home demonstration agent. He was told that no women had ever been appointed by the Department of Agriculture for field work. He expressed doubts that the appropriations made by Congress could be used for the work of farm women. Other alternatives were sought for funds and the General Board of Education came to the rescue of the request and made available financial help that made home demonstration possible in its beginning. Nothing has had a more far-reaching influence in improvements for the farm home.

Corn and Tomato Clubs

An outstanding part of Dr. Knapp's work was conducted through Boys Corn Clubs and later Girls Tomato Clubs, both being an outgrowth of the farmer's demonstration work which flourished earlier throughout several states. Farm boys were organized to grow an acre of corn, with instructions patterned much like those used by the farmers on their "demonstration acres" throughout the South. Records were kept on production costs and yields. The success story of this endeavor quickly spread from Holmes County, Mississippi to other states. Professor O. B. Martin of South Carolina, who had conducted successful Corn Clubs was brought to Washington, D. C. and placed in charge of Boy's Club work in the South. Through scientific methods of cultivation, productivity doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled where Farmers Cooperative Demonstrations fostered organized Corn Clubs. Both, the boys' self esteem and pocketbooks benefited from their projects.

Farm girls observed the fun and profits gained by their brothers and neighbors from their Corn Club work and could not understand why they could not be provided the same opportunity. They needed money for clothes, school books and decent furnishings for their homes, but it was doubted whether they could do the hard work

necessary to grow an acre of corn. They thought that they could and many of them did, and they were allowed to join the Corn Clubs because of their persistence.

"There should be something for a farm girl more suited to her strength and liking," said Dr. Knapp who was now the director of the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work in America. He was determined that something appropriate would be offered.

Dr. Knapp stated "if much can be done for boys to interest and instruct them in their life work, more can be done for girls. Teach them to mend, sew and cook, how to doctor, how to dress a wound, and how to adorn the simple home and make it appear like a palace." After discussing the matter of a farm girls project with O. B. Martin, his assistant in charge of Boys Corn Clubs in the South, together they decided that growing a garden and canning vegetables would furnish an outlet for the farm girls' energies.

It was agreed that Mr. Martin's first attempt in organizing girls' club work would be in South Carolina, his home state, and that the project would be 1/10 acre tomatoes, which would teach production practices as well as canning.

In November 1909 Mr. Martin outlined to South Carolina teachers his plan for growing and canning tomatoes for farm girls. Miss Marie Cromer, an Aiken County teacher and organizer for the School Improvement Association decided to try the 1/10-acre gardens with her students. In the spring of 1910, Miss Cromer had 46 girls in her community who responded to the opportunity of organizing a Tomato Club. The county superintendent cooperated in every way, the state club agent gave information on planting and cultivating, and the U.S. Office of Farmer's Cooperative Demonstration Work sent letters, bulletins, and leaflets on the production of tomatoes and the **first canning club for farm girls in the world** was off to a successful start.

In 1909 Mr. I. O. Schaub, a North Carolina native, who was at that time an assistant professor of soils at Iowa State College was called back to his home state to organize the Pioneer Boys Corn Club work. He was so impressed with Miss Cromer's Tomato Club and their work in South Carolina, that he accepted, also, the offer of the General Board of Education in cooperation with State College to organize girls' club work.

Jane McKimmon Hired

There was a need for a (woman) state organizer and supervisor for the garden and canning clubs. Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon, who had been a lecturer for the Farmer's Institute and director of the women's section of that work was hired to begin work on November 1, 1911.

Fourteen pioneer counties were selected to try the organization of Tomato Clubs. They were Alamance, Catawba, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Hertford, Madison, Mecklenburg, Moore, Pitt, Wake, Wayne, and Wilkes. Each county appropriated \$75 per county

for 2 months per year, and the counties were expected to match this amount for the employment of a home agent.

All 14 counties were contacted and wanted an agent *immediately* to promote this new educational venture. After the first year experience, it was agreed that the girls' club work would require a home agent's *full time* rather than 2 months employment per year.

The 14 agents, along with Mrs. McKimmon, were told by the Federal office and the State Division of the Farmers Cooperative Organization to work out their own plans of work, but to be sure to meet the needs of the farm girls who were participating in the program.

The counties selected to be organized were visited by Mrs. McKimmon in November and December of 1911. By March 1912, home agents had been appointed in each of the pioneer counties and they were off to a good start with their plans for girls' club work. These 14 agents in North Carolina were highly educated women with backgrounds of culture in the home. None had home economics training, but all had practical knowledge of homemaking and country living. All agents were held in high esteem in their counties which helped to establish home demonstration work on a high level from the beginning. Girls' club work progressed and the farm women became eager to participate in an organized educational program similar to that offered to the girls.

Smith-Lever Bill

The Federal government took a hand in 1913 "when the Smith-Lever Bill was being discussed with expectations that Congress would make an appropriation for Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work." It was significant that Congress expressly stated that this act should benefit farm women.

Mr. Lever in making his report on his bill from the Agriculture Committee to the House of Representatives said, "This is the first time in the history of our country that the Federal government has shown any tangible purpose or desire to help farm women in a direct way, to solve their problems and lessen their heavy burdens." The bill passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives in 1914. The sum and substance of the bill "charged Extension agents with the duty of diffusing among people useful and practical information on subjects relating to Agriculture and Home Economics."

Many changes took place in the organization following Dr. Knapp's death in 1911 and the passage of the Smith-Lever Bill in 1914. Dr. Knapp was succeeded by his son, Dr. Bradford A. Knapp, who had served as an assistant to his father as a special agent in charge of the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work. "He proved, also, to be a sympathetic friend to the home side of the work."

J. A. Evans, an early friend and cooperator of Dr. Seamon A. Knapp's, was appointed assistant to Dr. Bradford Knapp and O. B. Martin continued his fine work with 4-H clubs. During the formative

years of Home Demonstration Work he worked constantly to have the program receive an equal opportunity with Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work. "All home demonstration agents knew him as a friend and champion of their work through the trials and tribulations of uncertain appropriations and the establishment of their status."

Each year state home demonstration agents were called to Washington, D. C. to evaluate and discuss the progress of their work with Mr. Martin and Dr. Bradford Knapp. This presented an opportunity for an exchange of ideas with other state agents and to receive encouragement from those who had come through similar difficulties.

There was a spirit in the country people that was stronger than any obstacles that could be placed in their paths. The agents always returned to their respective states inspired and with the faith to work harder to make their programs more fruitful to more people.

Administrative procedure in home demonstration work was left to those who were actually involved in building the pioneer organization, the home demonstration staff. Consequently, there were few obstacles thrown in their way.

Salary and travel came from the General Education Board, county boards of commissioners, the Department of Agriculture and from various land-grant colleges throughout the United States.

A new order of things came about in 1914 with the passage of the Smith-Lever Bill. The Farmers Cooperative Demonstration work was taken over by the federal government in cooperation with the state, and there were many changes made in administration. A director of Extension work was appointed in each state. Dr. B. W. Kilgore was the first director selected for North Carolina. C. R. Hudson, who had served as State Farm Agent, and Mrs. McKimmon became assistants to Dr. Kilgore to help plan and operate a much bigger organization.

The Smith-Lever Act required a well set-up plan of organization where state and federal agencies would be in charge of the work in each state, and where agents of the new Agricultural Extension Service could provide better leadership to their programs.

Schaub State Director

I. O. Schaub, of Stokes County, North Carolina was appointed director of the Corn Clubs Division of the South and served 10 years in that capacity. In 1924, he resigned this position and came back to serve North Carolina as state director of the Agricultural Extension Service. There have been strong cooperative Extension programs going in the 100 counties of North Carolina since his return to the state.

The home demonstration program has been blessed with outstanding and understanding state home demonstration agents who served, also, as assistant director in charge of the Home Economics Extension work. Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, our first state home demonstration agent, gave leadership to the organization for 32 years on the state level. Miss Ruth Current served in this capacity for ap-

proximately 20 years, with Dr. Eloise Cofer giving 17 years of loyal service to the program. Dr. Martha Johnson began her tenure of service as assistant director in charge of the Home Economics Extension program on December 15, 1980.

The capable men who have served North Carolina as directors of the Agricultural Extension Service throughout its inception have been Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Dean I. O. Schaub, D. S. Weaver, Robert W. Shoffner, Dr. George Hyatt Jr., and Dr. T. C. Blalock.

The Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service is big business in North Carolina, involving three levels of government—county, state and federal—with the United States Department of Agriculture serving as the umbrella for all three governing bodies. Each branch of all three governing bodies participates and carries certain responsibilities in budget making, setting policies, supervision and coordination of efforts in all phases of the program.

In these times of rapid change, the needs and problems of families have likewise changed. Among the most pressing problems affecting family living at present are inflation, the energy crisis, environmental obstacles and management of available resources. The program has been forced to expand in many directions to come forth with solutions to problems and needs of families. City homemakers, a new audience, are now participating in the program by requests for assistance from both home economics and agricultural agents for the latest information and modern methods in various areas of family living.

Among the changes that have taken place is the title of the county home agents to extension home economists.

Educational Standards Raised

The educational standards for county Extension agents are being continuously raised in order to keep them in step with new research and technology in their specific areas of responsibilities through workshops, training schools, seminars, and the opportunity to pursue masters and doctoral degrees in some special field of interest.

The educational levels among our North Carolina citizens have likewise risen, which is all the more reason for county workers to keep ahead.

The general Agricultural Extension Organization on the state level is composed of a state director, assistant directors with specified duties assigned to them, district agents, subject matter specialists, program planning agents, and very capable secretaries.

The home economics staff on the county level consists of two or more agents whose responsibilities vary and are assigned, based on experience and training, with at least one secretary. The staff in the more populated counties have more agents and in some cases have area specialists in certain fields.

The 4-H Club organization within a county is usually a combination of membership of both boys and girls, with the total Extension staff

working together to supply subject matter information and demonstrations as needed by the members with at least one or two agents working together with an office secretary.

So this is *How* home demonstration work began and home economics extension *Is*!

There is no more rewarding profession on earth than serving as a county Extension home economist who loves people and possesses a missionary spirit of wanting to help others live more abundant and useful lives. With that type of faith in our fellow man, we have come a long way in North Carolina and we are indebted to lots of people for the progress enjoyed.

The Home Demonstration and/or Home Economics Extension Services have had a glorious past and we face the future with confidence! On the following pages are brief histories of county programs as prepared by North Carolina homemakers.

References:

- Shared Ideals*—The First Fifty Years of Epsilon Sigma Phi in North Carolina, N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, Raleigh, 1979.
When We're Green We Grow—Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, University Press, Chapel Hill, 1945.



Jane McKimmon



Verna Stanton



Ruth Current



Dr. Eloise Cofer



Nell Kennett



Lorna Langley



Ada Dalla Pozza



Minnie Brown



Dazelle Lowe



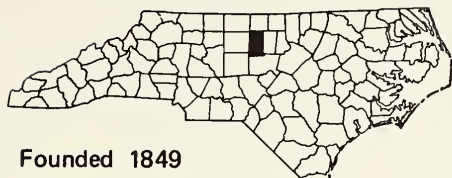
Martha Johnson

Leaders for Extension Home Economics Programs

1911 - 1946
 1935 - 1958
 1928 - 1961
 1963 - 1980
 1936 - 1966
 1936 - 1969
 1944-46; 1953 - 1982
 1947 - 1981
 1923 - 1955
 1980 -

McKimmon (35)
Stanton (23)
Current (33)
Cofer (17)
Kennett (30)
Langley (33)
Dalla Pozza (31)
Brown (34)
Lowe (32)
Johnson

Alamance



Founded 1849

In 1911 Alamance County was one of 14 counties in North Carolina that pioneered the organization of Tomato Clubs. It was to bring together farm girls and women for the definite purpose of improving living conditions. The men belonged to the Corn Clubs which had been organized two years earlier.

The first home agents were school teachers. They had to be lovers of people to work the long hours they did since they received only \$150 for the summer's work.

Only a few clubs could be organized in a county that first year. Clubs were started in Friendship, Hawfields and Shallowford communities. Mrs. J. F. Homewood, mother of Louise Homewood, helped to organize the first club in Alamance County. Louise's sister, Mrs. J. I. Wagoner of Guilford County, was a charter member.

The second club was organized in the Hawfields community. Mrs. J. H. Phillips helped to organize this club and is a charter member. This club has been active since its organization.

Margaret Scott First Agent

Margaret Scott was the first home agent to start Tomato Clubs. The Shallowford club was organized about this time. The Pleasant Grove club was the next one to organize and the first leader was a Mrs. Holmes. The members were single girls and they were taught how to make mayonnaise, muffins, and biscuits.

All Tomato Club members were to plant 1/10 an acre of tomatoes and grow them to maturity. A canning center was set up in a central location—usually a school house or outdoors under shade trees. Some days the canning was not finished until near midnight. Many cans of food were lost before club members learned that an acid had to be added to the cans before the sealing would work. Kerr Scott helped with the canners and he called himself "The Stoker."

Many agents traveled by horse and buggy

during these early days. The care of the horses was added to the busy work of the agents. The horse was replaced by the Model T Ford and the agents were confronted with cranking cars and getting out of mud holes. Many an agent carried cans of water in the rumble seat of her car to the canning centers in the community schools.

As the members learned, they helped others. Beans, corn and tomatoes were canned and labeled with the person's name. They were allowed to sell these in stores.

In 1912 Mrs. Kerr Scott helped organize a 4-H club in the Hawfields community.

Miss Edna Rhienhardt came to Alamance County in 1915. She was the first full-time agent. Later Mrs. Carrie Wilson came and she was referred to as a "Government Worker." She taught single girls homemaking.

Mattress Program Started

In 1941 a mattress program was started and provided many low-income families with a comfortable bed. Mrs. J. H. Phillips and Mrs. Carrie S. Wilson helped organize these programs. Six mattresses were made in one day. The person who helped was paid 25 cents a mattress or \$1.50 a day.

Miss Katherine Millsaps came to Alamance County in 1938. Through her faithfulness and interest in people she received the Dis-



Mrs. C. M. Aldridge, Alamance County, state president of the Extension Homemakers Association in 1969, shows off a chest she refinished.

tinguished Service Award at the national meeting in 1949. The women progressed under her fine leadership.

Mrs. Carrie Wilson received the Superior Service Award from the U. S. Department of Agriculture in May, 1952 as a result of the mattress program.

In other programs the women learned to plan and prepare nutritious meals, to sew for their families, and to fit dresses. The women wanted more attractive and comfortable homes. They learned how to bottom chairs, finish floors, refinish furniture, and make rugs. They also painted walls, added closets, and made new curtains. The latest convenience at that time was a hand pump in the kitchen.

Women learned ways to save time, money and energy so as to have better furnishings in their homes and more time for their families and communities.

Charter Members

The charter members of Alamance County are: Mrs. William Idol, Mrs. L. A. Ireland, Mrs. J. W. Mann, Mrs. J. H. Phillips, Mrs. Kerr Scott, Mrs. Clarence Wilson, Mrs. Roy Kernodle, Mrs. Addie Belle Richardson, Mrs. O. H. Ross, Mrs. Dora Haith, Mrs. Lollie Haith, Mrs. Nettie Hayes, Mrs. Mamie Jeffries, Mrs. Maggie Jones, Mrs. Ruth White-

more.

As of September, 1980 Alamance County

has 28 Extension Homemaker Clubs with a total membership of 424.

Clubs in Alamance County are: Altamahaw-Ossipee, Bethany, Bethel-Sylvan, Boone, Candlewick, Clover Garden, Elon College, E. M. Holt, Eureka, Good Morning, Hearth & Home, Highland, Homemakers, Morning Glories, New Horizons, Open Door, Pleasant Grove #1, Pleasant Grove #2, Pleasant Hill Rise 'n Shine, Rock Creek, Shallowford, Snow Hill, Southern, Sunset, Town and Country, Wedgewood, Whitney-Sutphin.

The following Home Economics Agents have worked in Alamance County:

Margaret Scott, Mrs. Cornelia C. Morris, Myrtle B. Ezzelle, Martha A. Holt, Irma K. Coble, Inez Ward, Edna Rhienhardt, Marjorie Holmes, Myrtle Floyd, Anamerle Arant, Anne Benson Priest, Katherine Millsaps, Grace Lee Allen, Mildred Marshbanks, Mrs. Marjorie F. Strickland, Mary Alice Cozart, Betty Ruth Mitchell, Dorothy W. Page, Faye V. Rhodes, Elizabeth G. King, Jean C. Harris, Mrs. Rachel P. Welborn, Mrs. Jane H. Ross, Carolyn Jean Somers, Mrs. LaMerle S. Mikell, Mrs. Ruth T. Joyner, Elizabeth Ann Doub, Mrs. Nancy J. Adams, Mrs. Carrie S. Wilson, Mrs. Ozetta P. Guye, Dorothy Lee Barrier, Dorothy Lou Warren, Jessie Gayle Abernathy, Phyllis Rose, Anne Owsley, Mrs. Rachel Kinlaw, Amelia J. Watts, Rebecca Clough, Lois Latta, Ellen Teague, Ruth Ann Stubblefield, Mrs. Judith S. Johnson.

Alexander



Founded 1847

North Carolina's first demonstration agent, Jane S. McKimmon of Raleigh, was appointed in 1911. Through the encouragement of the county board of education and the farm agent, Wade Hendricks, Mrs. McKimmon met with the interested farm women of the county in a boxcar in Taylorsville. Mrs. Molly Reese attended that meeting.

This is the way Mrs. Reese remembers it.

Mrs. McKimmon led the first meeting in a boxcar in Taylorsville. One of the things she told the ladies that day was to make little boys' collars and other clothing plain. She stressed the fact that little boys did not like fancy clothes. "If you want to make fancy clothes, make them for yourself," she said.

This meeting took place over 50 years ago, as nearly as Mrs. Reese could remember. Later demonstrations on canning and cooking methods were held in the Reese schoolhouse. Mrs. Reese bought the first pressure canner sold in the county and got it at a discount since it was the first. This canner is still used in the Reese family.

The Ellendale club was one of the first organized in the county. These club women

built their clubhouse which is still standing. They later abandoned the clubhouse to meet in homes.

Used Boxcar as Workshop

Through the help of Mrs. McKimmon, Farm Agent Hendricks and interested citizens, the work progressed. Miss Hallie Veile, who later married Ted Miller, helped the women can tomatoes using a boxcar in Taylorsville as the location for the workshop. The women were eager to learn. It wasn't just canning; it was an opportunity to do something and to be recognized.

In 1928 the county commissioners—Sid Earp, Hugh Oxford, and Oliver Looper—felt that Alexander County was ready for a full-time agent and appropriated the money for this program. Miss Marie Coxé (later Mrs. Matheson), the first full-time home demonstration agent, came to Taylorsville, September 8, 1928 and immediately went to work on her educational program. With the help of John Robinette, sheriff; Lynne Mays, clerk of court; and Marcus Stone, county superintendent of schools, who helped her locate the 42 county schools; and Hugh Osburn, county agent, who lined up her work for her, she held her first meeting at Duck Creek.

This was the time of the great depression. Every effort was made to get the farm people to produce more and store up food for winter. Mrs. Ted Miller assisted Miss Coxé in every way possible, accompanying her to every school in the county. County roads were horrible and only the undaunted would travel them in the winter; but Miss Coxé couldn't be stopped. She and her new Chevrolet could be seen at any time on any road. It was a familiar sight to see Miss Coxé unload her three-burner oil stove, leveling tools, portable oven, and necessary supplies at one of the schools. Every child was eager to learn. Even the boys wanted to learn how to make some of "them fancy biscuits." This was the beginning of 4-H work in Alexander County. The slogan for club work at this time was: "When you're green, you grow."

Another of the first clubs organized was the Rocky Springs Club. One of its first members was Mrs. W. A. Sharpe who was recognized in 1958 for her many years in club work.

Mrs. Marie Coxé Matheson was the first

home demonstration agent and worked in the county from 1928 to 1931. The work was discontinued until 1934 when Mrs. Ester W. Donnelly began work but she stayed only a short time. Miss Atha Culberson served as part-time agent in Alexander and Caldwell counties December 1, 1935 to July 1, 1936.

Home Improvement Stressed

Miss Ester Gordon followed Miss Culberson as full-time agent August 10, 1936 and continued her service to August 15, 1937. Having a full-time agent made it possible to organize Extension work in more communities over the county and to reach more people. The major project for the women in 1937 was home improvement including kitchen arrangement and conveniences, window curtains, sanitation and refinishing furniture.

Agnes Williams began her work August 16, 1937 and for the next 32 years the Agnes Williams Watts charisma was manifest everywhere. Club members began doing the unusual things: visiting historical and educational places, developing arts and crafts, learning new artistic stitchery, planning and furnishing beautiful homes, cooking exotic foods, learning better techniques for more efficient everyday living and reading more for a fuller life.

Linda Best came to work on December 15, 1969 carrying on in the footsteps of her able predecessor. Linda now devotes much of her time to 4-H work and serves as advisor on clothing to Extension homemakers and others.

Janie Shipley started work on September 15, 1972, giving us two young, enthusiastic and efficient leaders. Their backgrounds and experience have added new dimensions to Extension homemaking in Alexander County.

County Leaders

The following homemakers have served as County Council presidents:

Mrs. P. E. Johnson; Mrs. Conway Sharpe, 1941-42; Mrs. Perry Lowe, 1943; Miss Annie Bell Allen, 1944-45; Mrs. Carl Motsinger, 1946-47; Mrs. Maurice Grant, 1948-49; Miss Annie Norton, 1950-51; Mrs. Paul Thomas, 1952-53; Mrs. Elbert Bowman, 1954-55; Mrs. Oren Sharpe, 1956-57; Mrs. L. W. Davis, 1958-59; Mrs. Wade Campbell, 1960-61; Mrs. Dwight

Icenhour, 1962-63; Mrs. Dewey Robertson, 1964-65; Mrs. Roland St. Clair, 1966; Mrs. W. L. McHargue, 1967-68; Mrs. Dan Teague, 1969-70; Mrs. Dan Davis, 1971-72; Mrs. William Bradley, 1973-74; Mrs. Rocky Davis, 1975-76; Mrs. Steve Mitchell, 1977-78; Mrs. Thomas Philmon, 1979-80.

Mrs. Pleas McLain, Rocky Springs Club, and Mrs. W. W. Stockman of the Hiddenite Club have received A&P Leadership Awards.

Achievement Night Highlights

The highlight of almost every year for the Alexander County Extension homemakers is their achievement night. This meeting honors perfect attendance, club of the year, the outstanding lesson leader and calls attention to projects completed during the year.

Fashion shows, meals for visiting businessmen, craft workshops and shows have been on

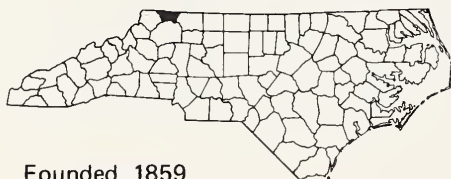
the list of activities over past years.

The past two years we have held an annual business persons luncheon. In 1979 the theme was International and in 1980 it was on Energy Conservation, using small appliances to prepare the meal.

In 1980 the county council sponsored the Clean-up the County campaign holding three paper drives and aluminum-can recycling pickups. The response was great with Boy Scouts, 4-H, schools, and all ten clubs participating.

Mrs. W. W. Stockman has worked on the district level as International POW chairman. In 1979, Mrs. Gary Icenhour served as the Southwestern district's delegate-at-large at the national meeting and in 1980, Mrs. Steve Mitchell was the district's delegate-at-large to the national meeting.

Alleghany



Founded 1859

The motto "You've come a long way, baby", might be applied to the homemakers clubs in Alleghany County. Prior to 1940 no concerted effort or provisions were made to secure a home demonstration agent to assist the homemakers, although the farmers had had a county agricultural agent for 12 years.

Finally, after a long struggle a home economics Extension agent (as home demonstration agents are now called) was secured to advise and help the women carry out their responsibilities of keeping the family well fed, healthy, and happy.

It has been said that all great movements had a small beginning. That applies here. A teacher saw the benefits derived from home demonstration clubs in other counties and asked that this adult educational program be made available in Alleghany County. Contacts were made with the state Extension office in Raleigh through Mrs. Jane McKimmon, state agent, and her successor, Miss Ruth Current.

With their aid and that of Miss Anne Rowe, the western district agent, speeches were made, demonstrations given, home visits made, and agricultural fairs sponsored. Interest was contagious and grew.

Power in Unity

"In unity there is power," so in 1940 a group of progressive women banded together and ventured to a county commissioners' meeting to seek aid for one-third of the salary necessary for a home economics Extension agent. The federal and state governments provided the other two thirds. These women believed themselves worthy of assistance. They also stated that there were only two other counties in North Carolina that did not have a home economics Extension agent. They pointed out that if an agent was secured a curb market would be established to market the surplus commodities as other club women were successfully doing in the state. But no help was promised.

Women are not as weak and anemic as once believed. A little later the women, accompanied by Miss Rowe, went to plead for help at another meeting of the county commissioners. Again they listened, but still no funds were provided. Still not giving up, Miss Rowe offered to secure the wanted home economics

Extension agent if the women could possibly provide the county's part of the salary. These good women were willing to try. In 1941, Miss Rowe secured Miss Margaret Lawhorne of Virginia as the first agent. She immediately started organizing homemakers clubs, as efforts were started to raise her salary by individual subscriptions of members.

Only a small amount had been raised when a check came "out of the wild blue yonder." The women were elated for it amounted to half the county's part which was so necessary. In answer to a request a philanthropist, Mayor Richard Joshua Reynolds, Jr., of Winston-Salem sent the check for \$240.00. Accompanying the check he wrote Mrs. Leonis Jones: "I am favorably impressed with the good work being done by the home demonstration agents throughout the state. I am eager to do something toward making this service available to your county." The check was presented to the county commissioners at their next meeting on January 4, 1942. They readily agreed to provide the other part and club members were reimbursed for their contribution. Since then the commissioners have continually supported the work.

These concerted efforts took place during World War II. After serving about a year, Miss Lawhorne answered the military call for women and joined the WAACs (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps). Miss Ruby Hampton became the second home economics Extension agent. She continued to work and clubs were organized in the seven townships of the county. New Hope Club was the first one organized with Sparta, Vox, Laurel Springs, Whitehead, Roaring Gap, Piney Creek and others following in succession. Miss Hampton became so interested in homemaking that in a short time she resigned to get married and became a homemaker herself. Miss Rose Elwood Bryan, state agent-at-large of Raleigh, proficiently filled the vacancy between the two first agents.

After this small beginning, Miss Rowe in September of 1943 secured the services of Miss Frances Capel of Anson County who had been a home supervisor with the Farmers Home Administration of Lincoln County. She is now Mrs. Isom Wagoner who leads in the homemakers creed, "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." She has organized additional clubs and also the 4-H Clubs for girls.

Under her leadership she aided the objectives of homemakers clubs in foods, nutrition, clothing, beautification, citizenship, education, home management, safety, music and cultural arts.

Sponsor Curb Market

"Drops fill buckets and pennies add up to dollars" you know. With united efforts clubs have sponsored a curb market at Roaring Gap and sold crafts at the Northwestern Trading Post to add thousands of dollars to the family income. Clubs have served food to other clubs and organizations and at sales. These earnings have replenished their treasuries. These monies were given to Alleghany County Memorial Hospital, scholarship loan funds, various fund drives, to schools for furnishings, to build a sidewalk in North Sparta, to start school lunchrooms, to plant shrubbery on grounds of public buildings, to provide roadside picnic tables, to participate in community open house and the list goes on and on.

Mrs. Wagoner secured leaders for workshops and club members learned to make slip covers, draperies, clothing, mattresses, hats, serving trays, planters, and how to refinish old furniture and to bottom chairs.

Every organization needs sensible objectives. Among the activities engaged in by the homemakers through these 29 years have been publishing and selling The Alleghany Cook Books, decorating the evergreen trees on the Courthouse lawn for Christmas, giving gifts to inmates at Glen Haven Rest Home and Morganton Hospital, entering floats in parades, making radio and television talks, erecting booths at the State Fair in Raleigh and the Dixie Classic Fair in Winston-Salem, counseling 4-H Clubs, and community improvement projects.

Club women on the cultural side have become civic leaders, excellent presiding officers, and gracious hostesses. They have cultivated friendly relationships by correspondence with women of foreign countries, sponsored a county-wide United Nations' Day, and entertained two home economics Extension agents here from Turkey.

Represented Nationally

Alleghany club women have been represented at Farm and Home Week in Raleigh,

United Nations in New York City, National Conference on Citizenship in Washington, D.C., and the Association of Country Women of the World in Denmark.

Several women have been Extension

homemakers club members for 36 years.

In 1973 Mrs. Helen Dosier accepted the responsibility of the Alleghany County home economics program.

Anson



Founded 1749

Home demonstration work began only two years before it became an integrated part of the Anson County program. The county's first home demonstration agent was Mrs. Rosalind Redfern, and under her leadership, home demonstration clubs began in 1913.

The club members' primary interests were in canning and selling their products of turkeys, eggs, and poultry. In 1927, the county had 10 home demonstration clubs and within a year's time they added four more.

During the early years projects were mostly conducted in foods, clothing, and home im-

provements. The home demonstration agent was responsible for training leaders to carry out these projects.

During 1934-1937, building club houses as a WPA project was one of the clubs' main interests. The clubs planted three gardens for the school lunch room program and sponsored community canneries.

The first Negro clubs were organized in 1939 with Ms. Nell McAurley as the first Negro home demonstration agent in Anson County.

The first county council meeting was a luncheon to make plans for the district federation meeting and an achievement day featuring a quilt show.

The county had a cotton mattress-making project for Negro and white families in 1941.

62 Project Leaders

In 1944, leaders were trained to give demonstrations. The county had a total of 62 project leaders for 17 clubs. Leaders not only



Back in 1929, Anson County had a cooperative for marketing dressed fowl.



Anson County Extension Homemakers enjoy "barter day."

gave programs; they helped with community-wide campaigns. This gave the agent more time to train leaders and organize new clubs.

In 1946, Negro home demonstration councils met to help with civic and community functions; in 1950, they were helping to plan club programs. They also planned achievement days and special exhibits to observe National Home Demonstration Week. They presented flags to the schools that year and began attending the farmers' and homemakers' conferences in Greensboro.

In the 1950's the ladies became more proficient in their work. They traveled to

national meetings and citizenship conferences. They wrote news articles, put up exhibits and gave radio programs. In 1950, a leader gave a program and by 1957 six programs were given by project leaders.

Achievement days began to be days of recognition for home demonstration members when awards and certificates were presented in 1951. They were based on accomplishments, perfect attendance, book reviews and other miscellaneous contests.

During the 1960's greater emphasis was placed on leadership. Club members gave programs to other clubs and civic groups.



Brown Creek community building was built by Anson County Extension Homemakers.

They also attended training sessions, workshops, and district and state meetings. In 1958, Anson County had its first club member, Mrs. Wade Lee, receive an A & P Leadership Award. She was followed by Mrs. C. B. Bunn in 1959, Mrs. James Smith in 1969, Mrs. Robert Griffin in 1971, Mrs. Dorothy Capel in 1973, Mrs. Robert Carter in 1977 and Mrs. A. J. Crowder in 1978.

In the late 1960's members gave workshops for the agents within their communities. The clubs changed their name to Extension homemakers clubs in 1968 and at this time the Negro and white clubs had already been combined for a year as one. In 1968, the council

was named Anson County Extension Homemakers Council.

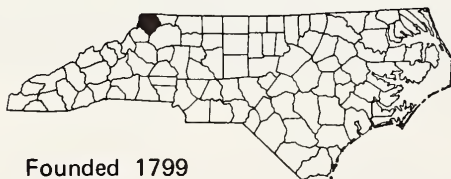
During the 1970's there was much change in the organization, although there was still a great emphasis placed on leadership development. The ladies were still very active and participated in many community projects and special activities.

Special activities sponsored by Anson County Extension homemakers have been a Talent and Fashion Show with garments constructed by Extension homemakers in 1970; a Holiday House—a display of crafts and home decorating ideas in 1974; and a Fruit and Vegetable Show in 1976 to exhibit outstanding examples of fruits and vegetables grown by club members.

Most successful money-making activities over the years have included flea markets and the sale of cookbooks. Money from these and other projects has been used for such things as donating a dryer to Anson House and assisting a group rehabilitation home supervised by the Mental Health Association in 1975.

On a number of occasions homemakers have made stockings and Christmas favors for patients at McCain Hospital. And each club is involved in a variety of service projects in the various communities.

Ashe



Extension home economics in Ashe has gone through many cycles of growth and development. Much of our work and problems are unique to Ashe County clubs. Clubs have been organized, dissolved and reorganized during the past 38 years with many changes in programs, club organization, officers and interest.

Charter members still active are Mrs. Lessie King, Mrs. Maude Gentry, Mrs. W. B. Oliver, Mrs. Mary Johnston and Mrs. Zeffa Little.

Home demonstration work began in Ashe

County in 1941. Miss Rose Elwood Bryan was the first home demonstration agent-at-large; she came to help the women get started. Mrs. Maude Gentry recalls that the first demonstration was on canning green beans in the pressure canner.

Mrs. Gordia C. Boney was the first home agent to be in Ashe and she helped organize 13 clubs, which were Nathans Creek, Baldwin, Chestnut Hill, Glendale Springs, Idlewild, Lansing, Riverview, Warrensville, Roaring Fork, Silas Creek, Tuckerdale, Healing Springs and Grassy Creek. Mrs. J. C. Pierce of Grassy Creek was the first council president. Four of the original clubs are still active while new ones sprang up to cover some of the same territory but under a different name. The number of clubs varied from 7 to 13.

Mrs. Boney also began 4-H work in Ashe. Miss Dorothy Fenness was assistant home agent until July, 1946. Ashe County didn't

have a home agent until April, 1947 when Miss Ella Mae Crosby came to the county. She was replaced in July of 1949 by Miss Ruth Carpenter who worked until February, 1950.

Unfortunately for the women in Ashe County, there have been lapses of times between agents, but somehow the women managed to continue the work with their own leadership, a quality homemaker clubs try to develop in its members.

Miss Faye Robinson reported for work in April of 1951 and stayed until June of the same year. Miss Sarah Wise followed in August and remained until 1954. The next agent to work here was Miss Sue Norman who came in July, 1954, but her stay was short; until October, 1954. Miss Sallie Whitaker served as assistant agent and also worked with the Farm Development Program until May 31, 1957. Miss Cora Green first served as assistant to replace Miss Whitaker and then took over as agent until November, 1957.

One of the most popular agents was Mrs. Jane Davidson, an Alleghany County native who served as home economics agent from June 1, 1958 until September 1, 1962. She resigned for one year and since no replacement could be found, she returned to work September, 1962. She resigned to accept the job as home agent in Forsyth County. Again, a period of time lapsed before an agent could be found. Miss Carolyn Johnson served from 1968 until 1970 and then began another period of not having an agent. Mrs. Judy Johnson replaced her in 1970. Mrs. Johnson stayed longer than any other agent. She left in 1977. Nancy Brewbaker came in 1977 and married while in Ashe; her name changed to Nancy Stanton. She left in June, 1979 and Onda Lineberger came in August, 1979.

Special activities of the Extension homemaker clubs that affected homemakers in the county were Alice Bell Charm School, bazaars, serving meals to organizations, fair exhibits, and the Ashe County Fair until it was discontinued.

One highly successful fund-raising project of the county council was the compiling and selling of a cookbook entitled "Favorite Recipes From Our Best Cooks."

Health Center Started

Club women in 1950's set a goal to help get a health center started in Ashe County. As a

result of their work and that of other citizens, Ashe County now has a very efficient health center in Jefferson. In 1971, club women helped to sponsor Mental Health Association projects in the county.

Our members helped to prepare for the bi-centennial celebration by buying the paint then painting the picket fence and masonry on the Village Green. Dogwood trees were bought and set in many places. Many of the members helped with the pageant "Wonders of the Blue Ridge Highlands." Gertrude Vaught and Elizabeth Barlow wrote a short history called "Rambling Through Ashe."

During 1978, contributions were made to many worthwhile projects taken on by the clubs: needy families at Christmas, the Day Care Center, the Rescue Squad, Girls Haven, free check-ups for senior citizens, clothing for the needy, help with Cancer drive, the Heart Association.

The first Jefferson home demonstration club was organized in 1941 under the direction of Mrs. Gordia Boney, the first home agent. Of that number, Mrs. W. B. Oliver, Mrs. Mary Johnston and Mrs. Zeffa Little are still active members. Although the members were few, they carried out many projects pertaining to home and community.

These women were able to keep the club active for several years, then when Jane Davidson came to the county as home agent, there was renewed interest in club work.

Years Without Agent

After Jane left to go to Forsyth County, there were years when there was no agent. Then a few stayed a year or two then left. Clubs were discontinued or dropped entirely until Judy Johnson came. Old clubs were revived and new ones organized.

Jefferson took on a new life with Mabel Gentry as president, Martha Koontz as vice-president, and Phyllis Porter as secretary-treasurer. Nine new members were added to the roll.

One of the workshops held then was decoupage under glass taught by Mabel Gentry. Some of our members have attended the Spring Festival in Elkin and others attended the Craft Center in Reidsville. A number went to the Reeves Community Center in Mount Airy, the Dixie Classic Fair and the Southern Christmas Show.

The Beaver Creek Home Demonstration Club was one of the first home demonstration clubs organized in Ashe County. It was organized in 1944 after the Baldwin Club, which was the first club, was disbanded. The Baldwin Club was organized in the spring of 1942. Some members of the former Baldwin Club helped to organize the Beaver Creek Club. At the time Miss Ella Mae Crosby was home agent.

Officers of the Baldwin Club were: president, Mrs. Ward Ray; vice-president, Mrs. Mable Houck; secretary, Miss Winnie Houck (Mrs. Basil); treasurer, Mrs. Alda Perkins. As many members moved away or had other necessary duties, the club was disbanded.

Nathans Creek club was organized in 1941. Mrs. Maude Gentry was first president. Mrs. Gordia Boney was first full-time agent. Mrs. Ollie Pierce was first county council president.

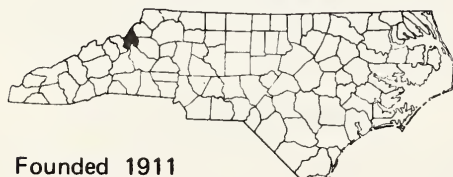
The first spring festival for home demonstration clubs in Elkin was held on April 23, 1952. The speaker was Mrs. Maybelle Kennedy, Assistant Treasurer of the United States.

The Grassy Creek Homemakers Club would be listed as one of the charter clubs. Two members helped lay and/or prepare the groundwork for the county organization as they walked many miles on the "highways and byways" and side roads soliciting funds, prospective members, and representing the Ashe County women before the county commissioners.

As one member stated: "I have participated in and observed club work through three generations. When the club was organized, I had a 'babe-in-arms.' Actually my daughter was 6 months old—and now that same daughter has finished college, is married and has a daughter, too, who is 4 years old."

Of course, the many home economics Extension agents that have been in Ashe County have carried out numerous club programs and county-wide workshops ranging from "Making Leather Gloves" in 1947 to "small appliances" in 1979. There have been many craft workshops, music workshops, decorating workshops, clothing workshops and foods workshops.

Avery



Founded 1911

Home demonstration work began in the county in 1935 with Miss Cleata Jones (now Mrs. R. H. Harmon, of Boone) working in Watauga and Avery Counties. She worked in the two counties 6 months.

In 1936-37 Miss Margaret Curtis worked with five groups of women in home demonstration clubs and 4-H groups in eight schools in the county. She did much to interest people in the advantages of working with the state Extension department to acquire more knowledge and better skills in everyday living experiences.

In 1939 Miss Anamerle Arant, district agent, came with Mrs. Georgia P. Cahoon to introduce Mrs. Cahoon to the county and help her get established as the home agent in

charge of the home demonstration work and other areas of working with the people.

Mrs. Cahoon added more club groups to those organized by Miss Curtis. During the 7 years Mrs. Cahoon worked in the county, she implemented and directed the outstanding projects of mattress and comforter making, home cheese making and conserving foods. These were depression years and women benefited from ways and means to stretch their meager dollars. Plans, help and advice were pulled together for the remodeling of kitchens, storage facilities and general upgrading of home family living space. Mrs. Cahoon stimulated the development of local leadership in teaching others newly acquired skills.

County Council Formed

In the pages of her memoirs of her work in the county she wrote about the group of 16 women who met with her in the Heaton community to form a county council. There was no planned program material. Mrs. Cahoon worked her demonstrations around the needs

of the communities. Most home kitchens were small so in many instances she took along a small oil stove to set up in a larger room for her food preparation lessons. Supplies were brought in by the women coming to learn. Cash income from farm products ran about \$250 annually. Many times she transported the women to and from the home where she was holding her sessions. She was planner, teacher and transporter. Her office space was small and crowded and it seemed to be moved about several times, even when she wasn't around to direct the moving. Some of the "offices" were a vacant room (no heat) over a store, an empty space in the court house where a rest room was to be put when funds were available. Mrs. Cahoon made do with odd tables and wooden crates.

The organization of club groups with officers was casual, the group being held together loosely by common interests. The county agent, C. B. Baird, helped Mrs. Cahoon in numerous ways. In 1946 she took five women to State Farm and Home Week in Raleigh. Some of the ladies had not experienced the hot summer in mid-state and were very uncomfortable. Thereafter several women of the county attended this annual affair until it was discontinued. Mrs. Cahoon's help with kitchen and other home remodeling is well remembered by the living charter members of Avery County NCEHA.

Miss Marie Scott (later Mrs. Mack Isaacs) came to the county as home agent in 1947. Miss Scott encouraged developing leadership throughout the county clubs, leading the women to become involved in the district and state organization. As new and improved methods of food preparation and conservation became known she trained local members to teach and demonstrate further to others. Clothing buying and construction became one of the fields where homemakers took their "learned how-to" into the work with 4-H and sponsored dress revues for the young people each year. County winners participated in district and in state dress revues.

State Fair Booth

In 1957 the county had a booth at the State Fair, using the theme of "Color Cues from Autumn Hues" and displaying fashionable clothing made by individuals, color co-

ordinated for the season.

When the handicraft workshop was held at the 4-H Camp Schaub in the mid-1950's, several women from the county attended, returning home to teach their neighbors and friends basketry, rug-hooking, chair-bottoms and other home crafts. In later years this annual event was moved to Lake Junaluska and to Montreat.

Avery has had elected delegates attending three Triennial ACWW conferences: in 1962, Melbourne, Australia; in 1971, Oslo, Norway; in 1977, Nairobi, Kenya. Ten National EHA meetings are counted for the county. Each year members are serving on district and state levels as committee chairmen or officers. In 1977 the State president of NCEHA was an Avery County woman.

Homemakers have joined Extension-sponsored tours to United Nations, citizenship conferences in Washington, D. C., safety seminars in the state and district, program of work workshops in district and state and the "University Days on Wheels" study tours.

Special Quilt

A quilt made by the homemakers hangs in the Avery County Museum. Each square represents a local landmark of the individual club designing and handcrafting it. Put together and quilted by the Beech Mountain group, it is a colorful display.

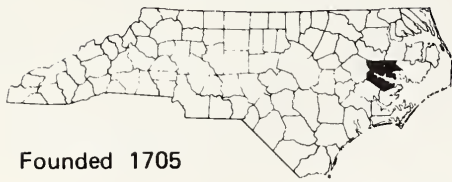
Preceding the Christmas holidays the clubs bring together their handmade Christmas tree ornaments to decorate a tree in the library. The funds gathered from the sale of these ornaments go into an account to help 4-H'ers or others.

Avery County women have helped with, sponsored, encouraged and given a boost to: Avery County health clinic ('57), school lunch program, Head Start program, expanded nutrition, senior citizen organization, community development, 4-H clubs, day camp, craft workshops and other interests pertinent to program of work topics.

A & P Leadership Award trays were received by two members—one in 1967 and another in 1975.

Mrs. Connie B. Greene became the home agent after the retirement of Mrs. Marie Isaacs in 1977.

Beaufort



It was a cold, raw, wet day, December 27, 1915 when the Extension homemaker's association had its first flicker of beginnings in Beaufort County. Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, state agent and first home demonstration agent, Miss Helen Guilford, visited the Ransomville community and the home of Mrs. George Herrington to demonstrate a new gadget called the "fireless cooker."

The roads were almost impassable and only two women made it to the meeting. To the amazement of those present the contraption worked; it cooked a tough and aged rooster to tenderest perfection. After the demonstration, the two agents and the three women traveled over icy roads to the Winsteadville Community to give a similar demonstration.

As the word about the "fireless cookers" spread, more women wanted information and began to meet in groups. These groups soon became home demonstration clubs. Many women walked as much as 5 miles over bad, rough roads through hot or cold weather to attend club meetings. Miss Guilford organized five clubs during 1915 and early 1916.

In 1916, Miss Daisy Padgett became the home demonstration agent and continued giving "pressure cooker" demonstrations.

Mrs. W. H. Martin recalls her visit to the Campbell Creek community.

"Miss Daisy Padgett asked that the oldest chicken in the neighborhood be brought to her next meeting. She promised to cook the fowl tender in 30 minutes. Mrs. W. I. Austin spoke up and said, 'We have an old hen that Irvin's mother gave us when we were married years ago'."

"When the next month's meeting rolled around, a large audience was ready and waiting in the old school house... Miss Padgett calmly went about her demonstration. She proved her point; the old hen did cook tender in less than 30 minutes.

School Lunchrooms

"I have always felt there is nothing like a hot lunch for picking up a child during cold, winter weather," said Mrs. W. G. Stancill in telling the early history of the school lunchroom program in Beaufort County. Mrs. Stancill had that idea in mind more than 65 years ago, when she was Miss Daisy Padgett, who had come from her native Asheville in 1915 to become home agent of Beaufort County.

Miss Olivia Rogers, who is now Mrs. I. P. Hodges, was the principal of Highland School at the time. Like Miss Padgett, she believed school children needed something more than cold food during the middle of the day. Together they worked out a plan to remedy the situation and the children were very much a part of the project.

First, the children were taught to make white aprons so they could help prepare their lunch. Next, attention was focused on doing something to put some warmth into their mid-day meals. They learned to make hot chocolate. It was soon realized that some variation was needed to give the children a more balanced diet at school. Before long soup was an important part of the mid-day meal. The children brought various ingredients from their respective homes, and the soup was made at school. As time went on, someone had the idea that it would be even better if a soup mixture could be canned and stored for use as it was needed. Members of the Highland Home Demonstration Club agreed to do this.

The hot lunch idea was so successful that it spread to other parts of the county.

One club, the Terra Ceia Home Demonstration Club, organized in 1924, installed cooking equipment in an extra room in the Terra Ceia School, and helped serve hot lunches to the children there.

Depression Years

The early years of Beaufort County's Home Demonstration Council well may be compared to a "see-saw" for through the lean years of the early 1930's, the commissioners felt forced to discontinue rural work. First the energetic group of councilwomen were up, then down, as the financial status of the county braved the

well-remembered depression.

The first record of the Beaufort County council was in 1925. As early as 1926 Beaufort County was recognized when Mrs. I. P. Hodges, then the local county council president, was elected second vice president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration clubs. Also in May of 1926 the president of Beaufort's council went before the board of education and was successful in securing the use of school trucks for transporting delegates to women's and girls' short courses and farm women's conventions.

A degree of regularity for council meetings was started in 1927, and meetings were held in spring and fall. In March of that year the council adopted plans for the observance of Better Home week and the organization of a county federation of clubs. Because of rumors that the county would discontinue home demonstration work along with some other phases of county activities, 250 rural women were called for a meeting with the county council. The large delegation went before the Beaufort County commissioners the first Monday in July and was successful in securing appropriations for 1928. However, dark and troubled days were still ahead. In 1932 the commissioners discontinued the appropriation and the county council had to assume the responsibility for same.

Miss Violet Alexander, then home agent, was approached and asked if she would cooperate with them by staying in the county, provided the women could raise the county's portion for home demonstration work. Miss Alexander agreed to work with the council. The spirit of Beaufort County's rural women and their hard work paid off, for in 1933 the Beaufort County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs had accomplished what no other similar organization in the state had.

Through the leadership of the council's able president, Miss Belva Bennette of Edward, who was assisted by a special committee of all clubs, the federation carried the entire county's appropriation for the support of home demonstration work from August 1932 to February 1933. The Beaufort County council and home demonstration clubs won their victory in 1933 when the commissioners set aside \$800 for home demonstration work.

Curb Market Organized

Home demonstration women started to organize a curb market in 1923 to sell their surplus food from gardens. Two years later the first home demonstration curb market opened in May 1925 and remained open through September. In 1926 the curb market operated throughout the year. In 1928 the curb market was operating so well that it was no longer necessary for the home demonstration clubs to sponsor and support it and the curb market became a separate entity.

Negro Home Demonstration Clubs

The first Negro home demonstration clubs were organized in 1944 with the first being located in Pantego, followed by clubs in Yeatesville and Cherry Run communities. This grew to 13 clubs by 1950.

A long-awaited dream of the Negro home demonstration women came true in 1954. The plan started in 1950 when a group of ladies met at a county planning meeting to try to help meet the needs of the county. One of the largest needs was to find ways to increase the family income. There was also a need for space to hold county meetings, which had to be held in churches or similar accommodations.

It was then that the group decided to buy some land for a curb market. The land was purchased for approximately \$1,700. The money was raised by all clubs working on various county-wide projects including bazaars and a county-wide recreational program. The final payment gave the Home Demonstration Council a lot on Fifth Street 121 by 210 feet.

The group then approached the county board of commissioners for help in building a curb market building. The board gave the agent the privilege of securing a plan. The home demonstration clubs made a deed over to Beaufort County with the understanding that the building would remain in use as a Negro home demonstration curb market and as office space for the home and farm agents. If at any time this building or land would become undesirable for such use, it would be turned back to the home demonstration clubs before any disposition could be made.

State President

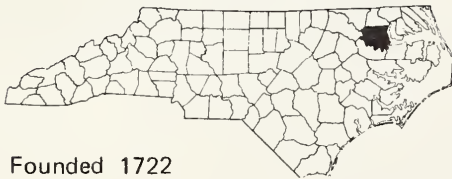
In 1964, Mrs. John A. Winfield, now Mrs. Ed Howard of Beaufort County was elected state president of the North Carolina Organization of Home Demonstration Clubs. "Miss Mary Winfield," as she is affectionately known, traveled to the ACWW meeting in Ireland and to national meetings during her year as president and the following year.

In 1967 the home demonstration clubs, both

black and white, integrated and changed their names to the N. C. Extension Homemakers Association.

Extension homemakers' latest contribution to the county really began in 1959 when restoration of the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath was started. The home demonstration clubs furnished and made the curtains for the house. This included crocheting approximately 175 yards of lace.

Bertie



Founded 1722

When the home demonstration clubs of Bertie County celebrated their tenth year in 1947, the county's home newspaper, the *Bertie Ledger-Advance*, devoted an eight-page section to the activities and achievements of the various local clubs and work at the district and state levels. At that time there were clubs in 17 communities with a total enrollment of 292. Mrs. W. J. Barnacascel was council president and Miss Virginia Patrick (later Mrs. Westcott) was home agent.

Agent Hired in 1936

In the 1920's, and even earlier, several attempts had been made to initiate formal Extension work in Bertie. However, it was not until the fall of 1936 that the county commissioners acceded to repeated requests and appropriated funds to hire a home demonstration agent. Before that there had been "canning centers," and Mrs. Elizabeth Early of Aulander had worked with such groups from 1916 through 1922. She was followed by Miss Addie Sue Harry in 1923; the work was discontinued in 1924. Mrs. Mildred Ives served as an emergency agent and supervised canning centers in the summers of 1932 and 1933. In 1936 Mrs. Sadie Bond of Indian Woods, a teacher, organized The Busy Bee Sewing Club for the Chowatic, Indian Woods, Kings and St. Francis neighborhoods. Later the name was changed to the Indian Woods Home

Demonstration Club.

On January 1, 1937, Miss Lucille Conner of Rich Square arrived as home agent and launched into the organization of 10 home demonstration clubs. These were: Lewiston-Woodville, Republican, Riverside, Merry Hill, Mars Hill, Powellsville, Holly Grove, Perrytown and Colerain, with a total membership of 114. In 1938 the first county council was formed and membership increased to 142.

Program Reinstated

In July, 1939, the county commissioners decided to discontinue home demonstration



Mrs. W. R. Lawrence (right) makes garments for a local hospital as Bertie Agent Lenore Crouser (1961) checks the results.

work because of budget problems. They reasoned that, since the department had been in existence such a short time, it should be the first to be dropped. On the first Monday in August a delegation of more than 100 club women met with the commissioners and asked for reconsideration and reinstatement of the program. Their appeal was successful. Five additional clubs were organized in 1939. They were Francis Mill, Hexelena, Green's Cross, Roxobel-Kelford and Woodard; county membership increased to 259. In 1940 were added Rhodes, Wakelon and Askewville; 1944, Ross, White's Cross and Capehart's; 1946, Cashie, and in 1947, Edgewood. Clubs organized since that time include St. Luke, Sams Chapel and Lewiston II, 1949; Windsor, 1960, and St. Mark, 1963. Through the years some of these clubs have combined or changed their names and some, for various reasons, have ceased to exist. Now in 1980, there are 13 clubs with a paid membership of 125. They are Edgewood, Indian Woods, Lewiston II, Merry Hill, Mt. Olive, Perrytown, Roxobel-Kelford, St. Luke, St. Mark, Sams Chapel, Wakelon, White's Cross and Windsor. They meet monthly and there are a number of area and special interest meetings scheduled during the year.

Through the years club projects and activities have included planting year-round gardens, producing pork and poultry, food preparation and conservation, clothing, house furnishings, home beautification and home management. During World War II club members took courses in first aid, worked for the Red Cross, helped in salvage drives, bought war bonds, and spent many long hours making bandages. Nearly every club family had a "Victory Garden."

Emphasis on Education

In more recent years emphasis has been given to parent education, child development, recreation, cultural arts, estate planning and "living with change."

Bertie clubs have produced articulate leaders in both the black and white communities and a number of district officers have come from our ranks. Many members have taken advantage of chartered bus tours, to district meetings and historic sites, including Williamsburg, Old Salem, Tryon

Palace and historic Halifax. An outstanding excursion was the state-sponsored "University Days on Wheels" in 1972. Tour groups also have witnessed the United Nations in action.

In early December of 1976 our agents gave "A Bicentennial Salute to Charter Members," that is, persons who were members when their clubs were organized and were still on the active roll. Nearly 50 members were honored, although all could not attend the special program. A number of former home agents attended, too.

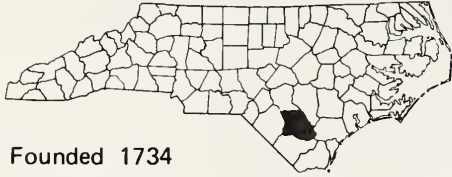
Although most of Bertie's home agents served anywhere from 1 to 5 years, a few have served 10 or 12 years, and one, Mrs. Lenore Crouser Walston, devoted 22 years of faithful service to "her women."

Agents Since 1937

Following is a list of Bertie County home agents since 1937: Lucille C. Taylor (1937-40), Miss L. H. Andrews (1938), Eloise Burch Perry (1940-41), Hilda S. Blanton (1941), Irene James (summer of 1941), Pennie E. Battle (1941), Clara Robertson Ralston (1941-44), Hannah Ruth S. McGaw (1943-45), Virginia Patrick Wescott (1944-47), Maxine Pleasant Denning (1946-47), Sabina A. Gould (1946-50), Annie S. Cooper (1947-50), Jean Lytch Jones (1947-48), Pauline Brown Baccary (1949-52), Agnes Beal Moore (1950-55), Gladys L. Ruffin (1951-62), Virginia McFarland Goldstein (1952-55), Clara Y. Motley (1954-58), Lenore Crouser Walston (1955-77). Also Lela Melvin Harrell (1955-56), Carolyn Wilson Lawrence (1956-69, excluding 1959), Mary Ann Jobe (1958-60), Susie Parsons (1958-60), Virginia Barfield (1960-61), Roxie Bunch Herring (1961-62), Marion Ivey Wilkes (1963), Marietta E. Smallwood (1964-69), Alma C. Hobbs (1970-73), Mary Jones (1974), Juanita T. Bailey (1977-79), and Linda Bridgers Boyette (1969 and still serving). Some agents also shared their talents with the 4-H clubs of the county.

No account of the Extension program in Bertie County would be complete without paying tribute to the efficient secretaries who have a combined service record of 83 years. They are Katherine Gillam, since 1944; Hilda Mitchell, since 1951; and Ruth Smith, since 1962.

Bladen



There are 22 Extension homemakers clubs in Bladen County. Six of these are young homemakers clubs that have been organized within the past 10 years. One integrated young homemakers club has been organized.

Officers of the over-all organization for 1980 and 1981 are: president—Mrs. Azzie Autry, Route 2, Elizabethtown; first vice-president—Mrs. Phillip Allen, Tar Heel; second vice-president—Mrs. Ellen Gause, Elizabethtown; secretary-treasurer—Mrs. Ada Beatty, Harrells.

The program of work chairmen for 1980-1981 are Mrs. Linda Brennan, Mrs. Claude McDuffie, Mrs. Floy Cross, Mrs. Lafayette Grant, Mrs. Bonnie Smith, Mrs. Ruby Jones, Mrs. Gloria Smith, Mrs. Fran Coble, Mrs. Alice McMillian, and Mrs. Ellen Gause.

The five past presidents of the homemakers council were: Mrs. C. E. Stevens, Jr., Carvers Creek; Mrs. Ralph Brown, Riegelwood; Mrs. Charles Lewis, Elizabethtown; Mrs. Arlene Lineberry, Elizabethtown; and Mrs. Edd Autry, Colly.

Agents Past 10 Years

Within the past 10 years, the supervising agents have been Miss Fleta Harrelson, Mrs. Clark Valentiner, Mrs. Dorothy P. Boone. At present the supervising agents are Mrs. Dorothy P. Boone, Mrs. Jane Ross and Mrs. Jean Rawls.

Three homemakers have attended national meetings: Mrs. Faye Lewis, 1976; Mrs. Arlene Lineberry, 1977; and Mrs. Oliver Gause, 1978. Mrs. Oliver Gause was district young homemaker for 1978. As a result she won the trip to the National Extension Homemakers Association meeting in New Mexico.

Mrs. Claude McDuffie was one of the 1980 ACWW delegates to Germany. This trip was co-sponsored by the state association and the Bladen County association. Mrs. McDuffie spent 10 days in Germany with women from

all over the world. She says this was both inspirational and educational for her and all who attended.

Program Highlights

Highlights of the Extension homemakers programs include seminars, tours, demonstrations, holiday houses, international programs, first aid courses, annual dinners and sales, and Community Watch programs, area meetings, workshops and scholarships.

Some of the seminars focused on:

- Strength of Families with Limited Resources,
- Building Self Esteem in the Family,
- Making an Investment in the Next Generation—Growing with Stress.

Bladen county homemakers have participated in two international programs. One was in the form of a tasting party whereby homemakers prepared dishes from foreign recipes. This event was co-sponsored with the international youth group at the high school.

In the second program all families from other countries that live in the county were invited to participate. On the program were representatives from Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, and China. This was an evening of sharing customs, talents and ideas.

The Bladen County homemakers sponsored five holiday houses over the past 10 years. The homemakers decorated these homes with natural and homemade Christmas decorations and crafts. The purpose of these holiday houses was to teach the homemakers to decorate their homes for less money yet have them attractive. These homes were open to the public for viewing.

Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund was set up for homemakers and youth who were interested in furthering their education at Bladen Technical Institute. In the amount of \$300 for each participant these funds were secured by sponsoring an annual turkey dinner and having craft and "this & that" sales.

Members of Extension homemaker clubs in Bladen have had an opportunity to take a first aid course taught by a representative of the rescue squad. These first aid courses help the homemakers cope with family health crises or emergencies. Only one club in the county did

not take advantage of these first aid courses.

There has been an increase in break-ins and stealing from homes in Bladen County. Six communities with Extension homemakers clubs were involved in organizing and participating in Community Watch programs. Almost all of the communities have such programs now.

Achievement Programs

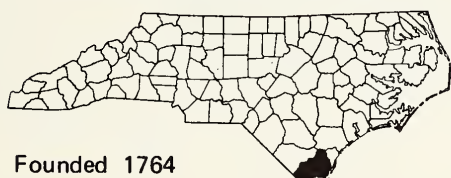
Bladen homemakers have taken great pride in planning their achievement programs. One of the highlights was a housing tour in 1979. The tour featured such things as furniture arrangement, color schemes, refinished and restored furniture, ways of cutting costs of

furnishing your home, good landscaping and yard beautification.

After the tour, homemakers viewed displays set up by the homemakers which included lap quilting, clothing, crafts, refinished furniture, and house plants. Twelve tables were decorated by club members using favors and decorations that corresponded with each month. Seminars were held after the meal.

Special tours have been made to Williamsburg, Brook Green Gardens at Myrtle Beach, Southern Living Show in Charlotte, Clothing Outlet in Spartanburg, S.C., Historical Homes at Charleston, S.C., and Alderman's Studios in High Point.

Brunswick



Founded 1764

Home demonstration club work began in Brunswick County in 1918 with the organization of a "Woman's Club," under the leadership of Miss Bertha Reid of Winnabow.

The first county council was organized in 1919 and the first meeting was held at the Concord Methodist Church at Supply.

A county fair, known as Farmers Day, was held a year or so later. This event was held for several years. Canning schools were also held.

Unpaid leaders volunteered their services and club work continued to grow under their guidance. Home demonstration club agents started organizing clubs in the communities of Exum, Bolivia, Winnabow, Town Creek, Mill Creek, Shallotte Village Point, Longwood and Southport.

The first club in the Southport area was started in 1925 but was later dissolved. The present club at Southport is a branch of the Orton 1948 Club. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Margaret Hood.

Mrs. J. E. Dodson

One of Brunswick's most outstanding homemakers was Mrs. J. E. Dodson, wife of

the second county farm agent. Both now deceased, they came to Brunswick County in the early 1930's.

Mrs. Dodson was a life-long home demonstration club member and was very active in her community and county. She represented the county in many state and national events.

We understand the first county farm agent's office was located in Southport. Nearly all the records were destroyed by fire sometime during the middle 1930's.



Getting ready for a biscuit demonstration in the 1920's in Brunswick County.

The farm and home agents moved some years later to the old unoccupied Rourk store building in Supply. Here they remained until November 1, 1960 when the county provided new facilities for the Extension Service.

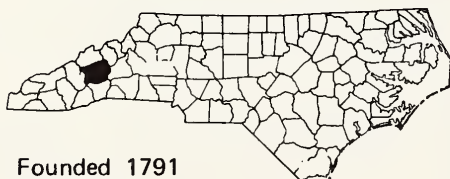
The office remained at that location until November 1, 1978 at which time they moved to new facilities in the Brunswick County Government Center just south of Bolivia on US Highway 17.

Although Agricultural Extension work began in Brunswick in January 1915, the county did not have a full-time home economics agent until 15 years later. However, local women assisted Extension during these early years as follows: Miss Bertha J. Reid, 1918; Miss Mary C. Bennett, 1919; Mrs. Janie B. Cavanaugh, 1920-1923; and Miss Martha E. Padgett, 1924-1925.

Home economics agents serving the county

since 1930 were as follows: Mrs. Ada Walker Foster, January 1, 1930-June 30, 1935; Mrs. Marion Smith Doshier, July 1, 1935-July 15, 1941; Miss Genevieve Eakes, July 16, 1941-June 30, 1943; Miss Elizabeth Gray Norfleet, July 12, 1943-February 10, 1945; Mrs. Alene McLamb Mintz, April 15, 1945-August 30, 1947; Miss Corinne Iola Greene, January 1, 1948-January 30, 1952; Miss Thelma Lee Hinson, June 16, 1952-June 30, 1955; Miss Sumaleigh Brown, July 1, 1956-July 31, 1958; Mrs. Treva G. Croom, September 16, 1958-July 31, 1959; Mrs. Thelma C. Upchurch, August 1, 1959-January 31, 1961; Miss Catherine Aman, June 1, 1962-August 31, 1962; Mrs. Mary Earp, January 7, 1963-December 31, 1963; Miss Billie Hamilton, January 1, 1964-June 30, 1965; and Mrs. Mary L. Russ, March 7, 1966.

Buncombe



Founded 1791

Girls tomato clubs and canning clubs were organized in Buncombe County in 1914. This was also the beginning of the home demonstration clubs for women. Edna Rhymer was the first home demonstration agent in 1917. The Avery's Creek unit of the United Farm Women of America, formed in 1915, changed its name to the Avery's Creek Home Demonstration Club in 1917 and have since been an active club. Other early clubs that are still active are Cane Creek and Reems Creek.

Records indicate the home demonstration club members with their husbands played an important part in setting up a soup kitchen in the courthouse during the 1918 flu epidemic, dispensing 300 gallons of soup a day. Most clubs disbanded during the Great Depression, when the service of an agent was lost. Avery's Creek Club was among those that continued to function, and they wrote to Raleigh to get another agent appointed in 1937. She was Jennie Whitaker. Then clubs began to organize all

over the county.

Buncombe County home demonstration clubs joined the North Carolina Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs when it was organized in 1920 and have since remained active. To meet the change in times, the name has been changed to Extension Homemakers Clubs and the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.

In the early years, most of the effort was spent in learning more about conserving food so that families could be better fed throughout the year. We also learned how to use simple equipment to prepare food, how to make and care for the family clothing, and how to make our homes more comfortable and attractive.

2,000 Cotton Mattresses

Agent Mamie Sue Evans came to Buncombe County in 1940. Because of a surplus of cotton at that time, the government chose mattress making as a way to use the cotton and help some of the nation's needy people. Under Mrs. Evan's supervision, more than 2,000 cotton mattresses were made, the pride of many families who had previously used cornshuck and straw mattresses.

For many years curb markets were ready markets for fresh vegetables, butter, eggs, poultry, ham, sausage, flowers, and baked goods. The profits were used to upgrade the



Buncombe County Extension Homemakers planted a missing shrub, rhododendron, at the entrance to the Smith McDowell house in 1976.

quality of life for all members of the rural family. In more recent years, we have seen these markets become bazaars featuring all types of handmade items, baked goods, and some produce. Buncombe County club members look forward to the annual bazaar. The quality of the handwork has been greatly improved. Several thousand dollars are made on the bazaar, and the women contribute some of these earnings to several worthy community projects.

The early emphasis on food and clothing has expanded to include other important areas of management, interpersonal relationships, and cultural development. We have enlarged our understanding of the world about us; many Buncombe County women have participated in the United Nations study tours and other educational "Tours-on-Wheels."

Margaret Decker of Buncombe County was the state president of the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Council in 1971. Her deep thinking and careful planning served the state well as she represented us at national Extension homemaker meetings and at international meetings of the Associated Country Women of the World. She also served as state

chairman of North Carolina Farm-City Week.

Four Buncombe County ladies have served the Western District as leaders since the 15 counties were reorganized into one district. The first district president was Margaret Decker in 1967. Later, Ann Buchanan and Celestine Rhodarmer served, with Genieve Morris moving into this position in 1981.

Agents who have served in Buncombe County are: Edna Rhymer, Jennie Whitaker, Rachel Hanoman, Annie Lee Rankin, Edith Rose, Sara Porter Ellis, Edna Edwards, Myrtle Keller, Ann Benson Priest, Mamie Sue Evans, Mary Ray, Joy Frauson, and Nancy Oliver. Our current agents are Nancy Stancil, Phoebe Putnam, and Elaine Gosnell. They, like the agents before them, provide Extension teaching, give help and inspiration for learning and improving skills, and most of all encourage the leadership needed to keep our clubs thriving.

One agent relates a story of working with club women on house location and window treatment. She told of a lady's house in a neighboring county whose picture window faced directly on a cemetery; however, the agent did not realize it included a beautiful

mountain above the cemetery. When she got through talking about the window and the cemetery, one of the club members said, "That house belongs to my daughter."

50th Anniversary

In 1970 we celebrated our 50th anniversary with a play written by a club member, Gerry Koontz, followed by a reception honoring two charter members, Mrs. Lenoir Cochran and Mrs. Stella Johnson of the Avery's Creek Club.

In 1972 the clubs presented a Christmas Ideas Exhibit by decorating the Governor's western residence and opening it to the public. More than 1,000 persons went through the house in one day, which was the largest number to attend any gathering held there.

Since 1973, club members have enjoyed an annual "Homemakers Day Out," featuring a luncheon and a program emphasizing one of the program of work areas. The 1979 theme was the International Year of the Child.

As a bicentennial project we chose in 1975 to participate in the restoration of the Smith-McDowell House, which will become a Heritage Center for all of western North

Carolina. Built in 1840 it is one of the oldest homes in Asheville. Extension homemakers will restore one room of the house. When it is completed, it will serve as a meeting place for educational and cultural activities.

Buncombe County Farm-City Week in the Asheville Mall has become a big event since 1978-79, with plans for enlarging this activity for 1980. Extension homemakers have participated in the week-long event with many different exhibits, demonstrations, hand-outs, and promotion of their work.

In 1976, Mary West of our county was district cultural arts chairman. Under her leadership a pictorial quilt representing historical or major landmarks was made and presented to the State Council as a gift. It has since hung in the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Room of the Jane S. McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Mary was the 1980 delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World, representing the western district.

Buncombe County now has 27 Extension homemaker clubs, both rural and urban, with an active membership of 623.

Burke



The Agricultural Extension Service began in Burke County about 1912. The first home economics Extension agent, then known as a "home demonstration" agent, was Mrs. Marie Coxe Matheson who was employed in November 1931 to serve both Burke and McDowell counties.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Laura Russell, who began her work as home demonstration agent in 1938, a group of ladies of the Hopewell community organized the Hopewell Home Demonstration Club, which is still active. Within the next few months, three more clubs—Upper Creek, Quaker Meadow and Lovelady—were organized.

The first county council of home demonstration clubs was organized in 1940 with Mrs.

Ralph Abernethy as president. From these first clubs and county council, with their main emphasis on canning and marketing, the home demonstration clubs widened their interest to cover such things as food and nutrition, clothing, home management, housing and house furnishings, family relations, education, citizenship, beautification, community service, music, recreation, cultural arts, health, international, public information, crafts, youth and safety. From time to time some topics have been combined. Local clubs, to a certain extent, base their projects on needs of the local community and county, rather than trying to carry on projects in all of the program of work areas. Thus, one will see, hear and read of club members working on a number of different projects. Mrs. Russell and the farm agent worked together in the organization of several 4-H clubs, the first in the county.

Mrs. Curry Agent in 1941

In 1941, Mrs. Helen Lanning Curry, now Mrs. Phil Pitts, became the home demonstra-



Burke County Extension Homemakers get ready for their 1962 money raising bazaar.

tion agent. More home demonstration and 4-H clubs were organized under her guidance. The scope of the program grew to encompass many projects and activities beneficial to community life.

Miss Evelyn Wiggins, now Mrs. Russell Watson living in Morganton, became the home demonstration agent in 1948. Under her guidance more home demonstration and 4-H clubs were started. Some of the special projects undertaken included a landscape improvement campaign for rural churches. While Mrs. Watson was our home demonstration agent Burke County reached another milestone. The first assistant home demonstration agent, Miss Cloise Williams, came to join the Extension staff. She was able to take over the home economics 4-H work, leaving Mrs. Watson more time to concentrate on the adult work.

The home demonstration club women of Burke County had two new leaders in 1959. Miss Ostine Warlick, now Mrs. Luther West, became the home demonstration agent and Miss Sylvia June Cockran, now Mrs. Clyde K. Warren, the assistant home demonstration agent. Because so many women had gone to work at public jobs, the home demonstration agents made extra efforts to reach these work-

ing women. There was an "Each One, Reach One" program. Bulletins and pamphlets were placed in public places such as beauty parlors, coin laundries and doctors' offices. Agents also used radio programs, home visits, telephone calls and news stories to reach people. New home demonstration clubs were organized.

Mrs. Jane C. Arndt came to Burke County in 1961 as the new home demonstration agent. More members were trained to present monthly programs since the agents could attend only a few local club meetings a year. Fair booths were made for the Drexel and Burke County fairs with emphasis placed on educational themes. More club women were elected to serve on district and state levels.

Official Name Changed

In 1966, due to the merger of the North Carolina Federation of Home Demonstration clubs and the State Council of Home Demonstration clubs, our official name became the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association. In January 1967 we became Extension homemakers clubs rather than home demonstration clubs. Our agents were no longer home demonstration agents but county home economics Extension agents.



The best of Burke County fashions, 1963-style.

We had several assistant agents during the time that Mrs. Arndt was our leader. Miss Margaret Anne Hendricks, Miss Carolyn Heavner, Miss Judy Thomas and Mrs. Rita Wall were among those who gave the club women assistance with their various programs.

Miss Rachel Keisler, our present home economics Extension agent began her duties in 1974. She, like those before her, encourages club women to develop leadership in their homes, club and community. The plan of having area meetings on a quarterly basis makes it possible for non-members to take advantage of programs prepared by the home economics Extension agent.

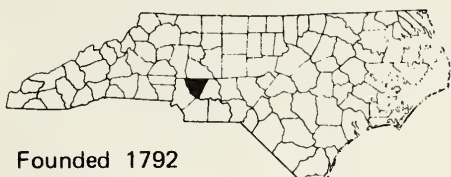
Mrs. Anita Hodges is the present assistant home economics Extension agent. Preceding her was Emily Watson.

Since 1938 local clubs or the county council have carried on numerous projects that have

had far-reaching benefits to hundreds of people. Members contributed dollars to help build the Jane S. McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Patients at Broughton Hospital and in rest homes have been helped. The women have supported the bloodmobile program, the Burke United Christian ministries, and the Morganton-Burke library to name a few. Projects have also reached beyond our own country as contributions were made to help dig wells in Guatamala, to "Pennies for Friendship," and to UNICEF. The most recent idea, to foster a feeling of concern for the hostages in Iran, was to tie a yellow ribbon around the old oak tree.

In addition to strictly educational activities and projects, the Extension homemakers clubs enjoy family recreation and social occasions. The friendships that develop are an important part of membership.

Cabarrus



Founded 1792

Home demonstration club work began in Cabarrus County in 1918, in response to the felt need of farm women to have a corresponding type of instruction as that given to farmers by the farm agent. Their desire was further stimulated when they saw that home demonstration work was already being successfully done in some adjoining counties.

Miss Sallie Willie Hunter was the county's first home demonstration agent, serving from the time the department was created in 1918 until October 1, 1919. Twenty-five or more home demonstration agents and assistants have served since then.

Organizing a few clubs was the first work of the agent, and at the beginning only a few women leaders in each community attended. Food conservation was a top priority thus the agent gave practical demonstrations in canning and preserving fruits and vegetables or converting them into jellies or pickles. Having heard the gospel of better home management practices, these leaders visited other women in their homes and taught those who could not attend the demonstration meetings.

The idea of delegating the leadership to club women grew as the years passed and during the 1930's it was a regular custom to select major project leaders in each club to direct and help carry on the work in her own community.

Leader Schools Started

Leader schools were started in the 1930's and were planned for in the year's plan of work. These schools were conducted either by the home agent or a specialist from the state office. County-wide demonstrations were given at the agents' laboratory. Workshops such as caning and bottoming chairs, refinishing furniture, candy making, sewing and needlework are conducted each year. Many have learned to do their own thing, and to share their knowledge with their neighbors.

Cabarrus County developed into an industrial rather than a predominately rural

county. This situation has definitely affected home demonstration work and caused changes in subject matter and methods of teaching. In recent years more clubs have been organized in urban areas extending Extension homemakers' opportunities to all women in the county.

The White Hall Club started a library project in 1934 and early in 1935 agreed to give its books to the county federation, provided the federation would sponsor a county library. This the federation gladly undertook and the library proved popular. It has the distinction of being the first library started by home demonstration club women in North Carolina.

Korean Youth 'Adopted'

In 1975 Cabarrus County Extension homemakers clubs decided to "adopt" a 10-year-old Korean youth as the county project for the year. Chung-A-Song brought Beethoven to life when she played from memory for 35 minutes at the Extension homemakers' annual achievement program.

Club members found ways to help further



Members of the Cold Water Extension Homemakers Club, Cabarrus County, make a puff quilt for a money-making project.

Chung-A in her musical education. Bake sales, plant sales and craft sales helped to raise over \$200 to purchase a stereo, which she needed so she could practice with training records. Mr. Song thanked the homemakers saying, "Without this gift Chung-A could not have continued to make the progress that she did. You will not be forgotten."

Chung-A-Song became well known in our area, having appeared some 23 times as soloist with the chamber orchestra of the Charlotte Symphony. Audiences were spell-bound as they saw this mere child of 10 years striking the keys. The homemakers of Cabarrus County, along with others helped the Song family adjust to America and see its goals accomplished.

The Cabarrus homemakers participated in the 50-30 celebration which was held in Raleigh. They design many exhibits for the county fair each year and occasionally have one at the state fair.

Educational tours are planned each year to Chinqua-Penn Plantation, Southern Living Show, Tryon Palace, Candlelight Tour-Raleigh, Jug Town and other sites.

Annual affairs that the homemakers take part in include the fashion revue, old timers'

music festival, clinics, bazaar and the Christmas festival.

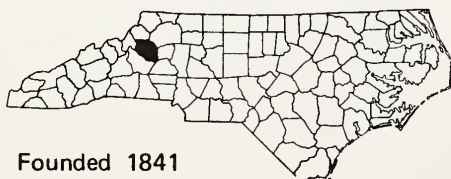
New Learning Center Built

A new Agricultural Learning Center was built in 1979; thus the homemakers have enjoyed planning and participating in many more activities. One that is especially enjoyed is the Lunch N' Learn program held once each month.

A & P Leadership Awards have been received by Mrs. A. B. Brawley, Mrs. Vance Patterson and Mrs. G. C. Miller. Among those who have served at the district level are Mrs. Brawley, corresponding secretary, first and second vice president, president, international and public relations chairman; Mrs. G. C. Miller, secretary and international chairman; Mrs. Vance Patterson, citizenship chairman; Mrs. Hugh Price, first and second vice president and president; Mrs. Chris Amspacher, international; and Mrs. Mandy Harvey, home economics chairman. Mrs. Vance Patterson served as state citizenship leader and Mrs. G. C. Miller as state international leader.

Presently, there are 29 Extension homemakers clubs with a membership of four hundred and eighty-eight.

Caldwell



Founded 1841

Caldwell County is located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Lenoir, the county seat, is the furniture city of the South and attracts many visitors during our spring and fall furniture markets.

The county's homemakers first club was organized in 1920. It was called the "Tomato Club." The homemakers would meet at one of the homes to exchange ideas on such things as better practices in homemaking, making clothing, and canning food.

In 1922 Miss Mattie Lee Cooley, the first agent, began work in Caldwell County with the help of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Baldin. Since then we have had 26 home agents. We now

have 13 clubs and 180 members. Our clubs are active in all county projects such as the blood-mobile, health work, 4-H work, arts and crafts, the county fair and Dixie Classic fair in Winston-Salem. We have an achievement day every year to give awards to the outstanding club and woman of the year. Money is donated to the heart, cancer, and polio funds. We are always trying to help the shut-ins and sick.

Home agents over the years were:

Miss Mattie Lee Cooley, 1922-1935; Atha Culbertson Wright, 1935-1946; Margaret Wall, 1944-1947; Barbara Hurst, 1947-1949; Mary Parks, 1948-1949; Lillian Gilbert, 1949-1951; Jo Earp, 1950-1951; Ruth Kesler, 1951-1955; Sylvia Hamer, 1955-1956; June Simpson, 1957-1958; Catherine Palmer, 1958-1960; Ainslee Alexander, 1959-1962;

Elaine C. Brookshire, 1960-1964; Margarette S. Tilson, 1962-1964; Mary Jo Kinser, 1964-1965; Kathy M. Mims, 1965-1966; Harriet R. Tutterow, 1964-1967; Pat Huffman, 1966-1967; Hazel Lipe, 1967-1968; Pam Beverage, 1968-

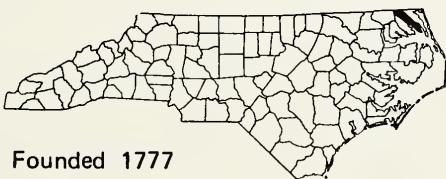


Caldwell County's Half Century club's project in 1979 was to help Leslie Anders.

1970; Carolyn Padgett Cox, 1969-1972; Phoebe Lee Setzer, 1971-1974; Elaine Gentry Norris,

1972-1975; Jane Greeson, 1974; Celia Brewer Cook, 1975-1979; Betty B. Howe, 1979.

Camden



Founded 1777

Camden County Extension homemaker clubs were organized in 1935 under the direction of Miss Mary Teeter.

Many names have been on the roll since we first organized. Our present enrollment is 42 with four of our charter members participating. We have had several outstanding ladies serving in our clubs with Mrs. P. P. Gregory, state president, 1951 and Mrs. Alfred Sawyer who attended ACWW in Africa. We have had several ladies to serve as state officers.

Our original clubs were: Shiloh, Old Trap, Bess-Gregory, Belcross, Camden, Sharon,

South Mills, Willing Workers, Indiantown, and Ivy Neck.

During the war years our women learned to conserve and can their food with a club-owned pressure cooker and bought war bonds. County-wide picnics were held. Christmas dinners were shared instead of holding the usual parties. We held hat sales, bake sales and garage sales.

County-Wide Workshops

We have always been active in community projects and have held county-wide workshops on various topics; these workshops benefit everyone. Programs of work designed to improve our living in "home, family & community" have helped our leaders and members.

Christmas open house gave our women an outlet for many activities, primarily handicrafts and cooking. Our members have made

an important contribution to the Albemarle area's Craftsmen's Fair each year.

Club women helped Camden County celebrate the nation's bi-centennial by participating in a special two-day program. Colonial costumes were worn by all the bi-centennial participants; one of our club women designed a county flag to use during the celebration.

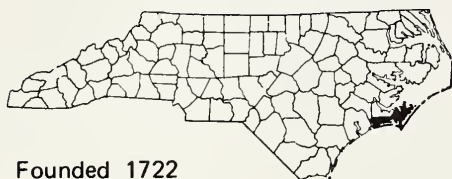
Extension home economics agents who have

served Camden County are: Miss Mary Teeter, Mrs. Mamie C. Sawyer, Becky Hobbs, Dorothy M. Smith, Sharon Noblitt, Phyllis Wood and Sharon B. Meiggs.

We currently have three clubs in our county—Belcross, Camden and Willing Workers.

Time changes all things, but we still share our ideas among ourselves and with other women in the county.

Carteret



Founded 1722

Home demonstration (Extension homemakers) work in Carteret County began in July, 1926. The need for a home agent was so evident that there was little difficulty in getting the work under way. Miss Edith Powell came to the county as the first home demonstration agent.

Local people gave her hearty support. The merchants and bankers of Beaufort and the county officials all cooperated in getting the program established in the county. An office

in the Beaufort Town Hall was reconditioned and equipped for Miss Powell's use.

The county superintendent of schools assisted Miss Powell in the organization of the first home demonstration clubs by calling a meeting of the women at the same time he had a meeting of the school committees. Thus, in August of 1926, the first home demonstration clubs in Carteret County were organized. They were the Merrimon, Harkers Island, Atlantic and White Oak home demonstration clubs.

In October and November of 1926, the Smyrna, Williston, Wire Grass and Core Creek home demonstration clubs organized. By December, 1926, the county had eight home demonstration clubs with 147 members.

In July, 1927 the county commissioners appropriated \$400 to renovate a room in the old Beaufort school building, and to equip a



Early curb market in Morehead City, Carteret County.

kitchen laboratory for the use of the home agent. This same room was used as part of the home agent's office until fire destroyed it in April of 1980.

Council Organized in 1928

On November 3, 1928, the County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs was organized. Eighteen members attended the organizational meeting—two from each club in the county. The first officers of the council were: Mrs. C. F. D. Bell of Harlowe, president; Mrs. Sterling Robinson of Atlantic, vice president; and Mrs. Fred Guthrie of Harkers Island, secretary-treasurer.

The first 16 years of home demonstration work was done with only one agent. In 1944 a secretary was employed. For 23 years one agent and a secretary carried on the adult and youth program.

In 1931 Carteret County had 12 home demonstration clubs with a membership of 291. On May 16 of that year, the home demonstration curb market was organized in Carteret County, with 42 women selling fresh vegetables, cakes, meats, fruits, flowers, etc. For the first several years, people sold their goods from tables set up under the trees at the market site. In 1942, the club women constructed a market building on that site. This market is still in operation.

14 Clubs in 1932

In 1932 there were 14 home demonstration clubs in the county. New clubs that had been organized included Stacy and Bettie in 1928, Crab Point and Straits in 1929, Merrimon (reorganized), North River and Harlowe in 1930.

In 1934 there were 19 home demonstration clubs in Carteret County. Davis Club was organized in 1933 and Marshallberg, Wildwood, Pelletier, Camp Glenn and Sea Level in 1934. Otway and Smyrna Clubs were organized in 1935.

The home agent was ably assisted with the home demonstration program by the county and community project leaders. County and community project leaders were selected for foods and nutrition, clothing, house furnishings and home management, home beautification, home gardens, home poultry, home dairy and child development. In 1941,

one of the outstanding projects was the comforter and mattress program. A total of 1,215 mattresses and 1,130 comforters were made.

In 1955, Mrs. Floy G. Garner came to the county as the home agent and remained in this position for 22 years. Several important and successful projects were initiated under her leadership. One was the publishing of a seafood cookbook by the home demonstration club members. "Seafood Cookery From Carteret County Kitchens" was first published in 1965. Approximately 13,000 copies have been sold to date. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook were placed in a separate account. In 1978 the Carteret County Extension Homemakers Loan Fund was established to help a former 4-H'er, or child of an Extension-related family pursue higher education. To date, two \$300 loans have been made.

Crafts Program Successful

A successful crafts program was organized in the 1960's. To promote the program and focus attention on crafts, the Carteret Extension homemakers sponsored a yearly 3-day Craft Show for 4 consecutive years. At these shows, craftsmen demonstrated and sold their crafts. Later they opened a craft store in Beaufort which remained open for a full year. Crafts classes were taught through the sponsorship of Carteret Technical Institute.

In 1970, the home economics committee of the Neuse Area Development Association decided to further the craft program by opening a craft co-op. The co-op was an outlet for craftsmen from the nine-county NADA area to sell their crafts. Located in the old train depot in Morehead City, the co-op was open for approximately 3 years; it closed in 1973.

An even more successful crafts project still in existence today is Crafts Expo. Expo was first started in 1971 and was an outgrowth of the craft shows, craft store, and co-op of previous years. Expo is a 2-day show in which craftsmen from the nine-county NADA area demonstrate and sell their crafts. Although it is sponsored by the home economics committee of NADA, the Carteret County Extension homemakers take pride in knowing that they helped with much of the ground work and path-clearing.

In April, 1973, the Carteret County Extension homemakers formed an advisory council to work with the laboratory staff at the NCSU

Seafood Laboratory in Morehead City. Each month, this committee assists the laboratory staff in solving practical problems in the processing, preparing and cooking of seafoods. This cooperative venture has continued on a 1-day-a-month basis and has been the source of a tremendous exchange of knowledge and rapport between the laboratory staff and the nutrition leaders.

Bicentennial Project

In 1975 the Extension homemakers undertook to construct a bi-centennial quilt which would depict various scenes and historical locations in the county. Each club was asked to embroider at least one square; although many clubs prepared more than one. The quilt was completed in 1976. Mrs. Aline Davis, Wildwood Club, chairman of the quilt committee, did much of the work on the quilt herself.

To date there are 15 organized Extension homemakers clubs in Carteret County. They are: Atlantic, Beaufort, Broad Creek, Cape Carteret, Cedar Street, Core Creek, Crab Point, Gloucester, Newport, Newport West, Russells Creek, Sound View, Town and Country, Travelers and Wildwood. In addition, a special Extension homemakers club was organized in 1979 at the Morehead Nursing Center, Morehead City. This club has 20 members, its own officers and is visited monthly by one of the 15 regular Extension homemakers clubs. Total membership in our Extension homemakers organization is now at 322.

The county council still meets regularly on a quarterly basis. Officers of the council for 1979-1980 were Mrs. Elmore Lawton of the Broad Creek Club, president; Mrs. Margaret Taylor, Beaufort Club, first vice president; Mrs. Jetnella Parker, Cedar Street Club, second vice president; Mrs. Brad Sutton, New-



Mrs. L. D. Springle, Beaufort, displays her fresh vegetables at the Carteret County curb market in 1959.

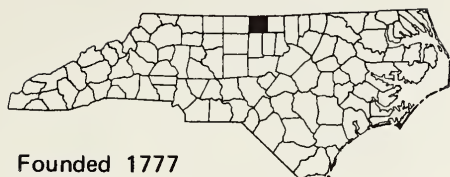
port Club, secretary; Mrs. Eleze Merrell, Russells Creek Club, treasurer; and Mrs. Valaree Stanley, Crab Point Club, advisor.

At present, Mrs. Eloise Pigott is serving as the southeastern district second vice president and became the district first vice president in 1981.

Home economics agents and their length of service in Carteret County include:

Miss Edith Powell, July 1, 1926-August 31, 1930; Virginia Sloan, September 1, 1930-September 30, 1931; Ann Mason, October 1, 1931-January 31, 1934; Helen Dry, February 1, 1934-August 31, 1936; Margaret Clark, September 1, 1936-November 30, 1941; Evelyn Horne, December 1, 1941-January 31, 1942; Dorothy Banks Armstrong, February 1, 1942-June 30, 1946; Carrie Brewer Gillikin, July 1, 1946-June 30, 1951; Martha Barnett, July 1, 1951-May 31, 1955; Floy G. Garner, June 16, 1955-December 31, 1977; Maurene Stewart, August 1, 1978-.

Caswell



Founded 1777

In 1935, a group of Caswell County women saw the need for a trained home economics Extension agent to help with all aspects of home and family living. Prior to that time a home economist, Mrs. N. B. Nicholson, had worked with groups in the county on food conservation. The county commissioners agreed to fund a home agent for one year.

On July 1, 1935, Miss Maude Searcy was hired as the first home agent. She began immediately to organize "home demonstration clubs" throughout the county. Nine clubs were founded that first year. They were Prospect-Yanceyville, Locust Hill, Prospect Hill, Semora, Pelham, Anderson, Longs Mill, Wildwood and Purley-Blanch. During that first year the club members adopted as their theme "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." Each club mapped out its own program for immediate action to include emphasis on character, courage, culture and citizenship.

As a result of a county-wide study, which indicated malnutrition was prevalent in all areas of the county, club members became interested in better and faster methods of food preservation and in school lunches. In 1943 members worked with the PTA to donate and can food for the children. Our school cafeterias are a permanent outgrowth of the work of home demonstration club members.

Reading Encouraged

Miss Searcy encouraged the women to read by carrying books from club to club. A group of club women went to Raleigh and met with the state librarian concerning the establishment of a permanent library service. The W.P.A. sponsored a bookmobile for 5 months which the county later took over. Through fund-raising efforts of the club members, a county library, the Gunn Memorial Public Library, was dedicated in 1965.

A county choral club was organized in 1937 with most clubs participating.

Miss Searcy resigned in 1941 to become the

home agent in Harnett County. She was followed by Miss Margaret Montgomery who served in Caswell County until she moved to West Virginia in September 1942.

Miss Louise Homewood was employed in September 1942 and worked with the club women until September 1965. She held pressure cooker clinics in Yanceyville and in other areas of the county each spring because too many women were using acid to preserve their food. She also remembers hat-making workshops and the pulled-mint workshops where the women met, had fun, and had products to carry home.

Miss Helen Payne was employed March 7, 1944 as Extension war food preservation assistant. She relates that it was a challenge and was exciting to realize even a small change in living habits. At first home visits were made daily to convince people to raise a garden with a variety of vegetables and then to preserve them correctly. The first Negro home demonstration clubs were organized in 1944. Miss Payne recalls: "The homemakers were not employed and were anxious to get out once a month for a visit with friends, a lesson in homemaking and tasty refreshments. On many a hot summer afternoon, I have gone to club meetings and the women would come in their starched cotton dresses and Sunday shoes. The meetings would start, I'd begin my demonstration and moving right along with the lesson, I'd happen to glance at the floor, I'd be the only one with shoes on. The women in the room would have taken off their shoes, relaxed and be in a receptive mood."

Other home economic Extension agents have been Charlotte Bridewell and Lillie Ellen Wise Hovatter. The current agents are Donna Pointer and Wanda Pickett.

Ralph Aldridge was employed as county agricultural agent and county chairman from 1944 to July 1974. He was a strong supporter of the club work although he admits what the men liked most were the achievement days. The men would be invited to this event, be recognized as co-workers, and then get a big meal.

Proper Feeding Promoted

Mr. Aldridge remembers also when home freezing became a reality for homemakers. "Much was done through the clubs to promote



County-wide "make over" meetings were held with Progressive Farmer Beauty Editor in Caswell County in 1947.

proper freezing techniques. One day the home agent went to help a lady with a new freezer and found corn-on-the-cob *still in the shuck* frozen in the freezer. She had heard the quicker you could get the corn from the garden to the freezer, the better it would be. So, she figured this was the quickest way."

Caswell County had the distinction of having the first state president of the Negro home demonstration council. She was Mrs. Maggie Brown of the Brown's Chapel community. Mrs. Brown also served as district president of the Northwest District Negro home demonstration council.

Club members helped to establish a Red Cross in 1942. According to Sally Winstead of the Leasburg Club, members collected used silk and nylon hose for defense operations. They also collected collapsible tubes, rubber, metals, scrap paper and used fats.

Members make Christmas a special time for the sick and needy in our county. Patients at John Umstead Hospital and The Murdock

Center are remembered with gifts. Santa's Helpers, a local project for the county's needy children, has been aided by monetary donations by the clubs. Members also have dressed eight dozen dolls for the girls for 3 years.

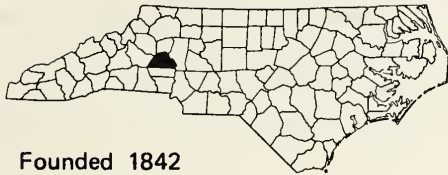
Annual Crafts Fair

As an outgrowth of the crafts workshops a yearly crafts fair was started in 1967. Individual and/or clubs display the crafts and hobby ideas they have collected during the year. Attendance has been excellent.

The Caswell Extension homemakers helped the county celebrate both the National Bicentennial and the 200th birthday of our county. Over 15,000 people converged on the county square in Yanceyville in October 1975 to view the craft displays, enjoy the music and talent, and sample food ideas. The idea was repeated in 1977 for the county's birthday.

This year, 1980, there are 20 clubs in the county with 298 members.

Catawba



The history of home demonstration work (now the Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.) in Catawba County is co-evaluated with the work in the state. Both date back to 1911 when North Carolina was one of five states to organize this continuing education program. Catawba County was among the 14 counties chosen to organize and had an agent in place by 1912.

Miss Eckard First Agent

The late Mrs. Marie C. (Ross) Matheson recorded some interesting tidbits during her employment from 1932-1942 as county home agent. "It is known that Miss Maude Eckard was the first agent. Miss Mary Rowe, sister of Miss Anna C. Rowe, agent for the mountain district, took over the demonstration work and was rural supervisor for several years." Other agents included Miss Katherine Mather, 1915-1916; Mary J. Rowe, 1916-1919; Mrs. Anna McKinnon Pegram, 1919-1920; Mrs. Anna Lee Harris, 1920-1923; Miss Anna Rowe, 1924-1931; Mrs. Wylie Knox Smith, 1943-1956; Miss Marjorie Gilbert, 1956-1960; Miss Hilda Clontz, 1959-1973; and Mrs. Nancy H. (Charles) Murray since 1973.

Other excerpts Mrs. Matheson gathered from the Catawba County records show that Miss Eckard was paid \$75 in October, 1912, for work done as manager of the girls' tomato club. Also on "August 6, 1923, board of commissioners appropriated \$1,200 plus a Ford car for demonstration work."

Possibly Mrs. Matheson saw greater changes in living conditions than any other agent. It was she who taught ladies to make cotton mattresses to replace straw bedding. Too, she constantly nurtured curb markets where farm women found an outlet for the sale of home-made and home-grown farm products. These were the depression years.

Clubs started in 1911-1912 were the Killian, Sherrills Ford, Southern Grove and Claremont groups. The Catawba County council came into being in 1929. Among charter mem-

bers living are Mrs. Charles B. Gilbert, Mrs. Pearl Gaither, Mrs. W. P. Hunsucker, and Mrs. D. L. Propst. Presently, the county boasts 28 clubs and membership of around 500. No longer are members solely from the farm nor can they be put in any one age bracket.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Foy) Goodin is the only Catawban known to have served as N. C. Extension homemaker president. During her tenure in that position in 1968, the present name change came about, membership cards were issued and the association became a group member of the consumer council. Mrs. Marshall McRee served as state corresponding secretary in 1959.

Mrs. (George) "Ben" Smith was state music leader for a number of years. In 1953 the southwestern district choral group which she directed won the WBT-sponsored musical contest. A decade later she was awarded the A & P Leadership Award (a silver tray) for her continued leadership.

Another dedicated worker of the arts and Extension homemakers is Mrs. Barbara (J. Carroll) Abernethy, Jr. She assisted in compiling materials for the 1977 publication of the N. C. Cultural Directory. This invaluable reference book has been placed in public and school libraries by the N. C. Arts Council in conjunction with NCEHA.

The 1981 president-elect of the Southwestern District, Mrs. Mollie (Robert) Millikin, was honored in 1978 when she was chosen to receive the coveted A & P Leadership Award.

The following served as Catawba County council presidents: the late Mrs. W. H. Ingold (the first in 1929), Mrs. C. B. Gilbert, Mrs. D. L. Propst, the late Mrs. E. A. Arndt, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. W. P. Hunsucker, Mrs. Fred Huffman, the late Mrs. David Anthony, the late Mrs. Harry Hallman, Mrs. Charles Lutz, Mrs. Walter Dellinger, Mrs. Foy Goodin, Mrs. Kenneth Hovis, Mrs. G. L. Lail, Mrs. Coyte Setzer, Mrs. Ted Hefner, Mrs. Bill Sigmon, Mrs. Lloyd Wilson, Mrs. Hubert Moss, Mrs. Harold Soutier, Mrs. Thurman Abernethy, Mrs. Robert Millikin, and Mrs. Ransom Miller until 1981. Mrs. Karen (Ron) Bennett is president-elect for 1981-82.

Change in Life Styles

In a recent interview three county members spanning three generations traced women's

life styles in this county through the evolution of clubs. Participants were Mrs. W. P. Hunsucker, a great grandmother and charter member of one of the county's older clubs; Mrs. Hubert Moss, a past council president; and Mrs. Richard Harwell, the 30-year-old mother of two pre-teen children. They talked of the yesterdays and todays of Extension homemakers.

"I'm for the Homemaker Club because it is one of the few organizations that sustain the idea that homemaking is an honorable profession for a woman to follow," Mrs. Harwell stressed with the fervor of an evangelist. The mother of children ten and eight years old said, "I feel that the family unit is the most important unit of society. I think it is fine to want to have a career," she said, "but don't put me down because I am a homemaker."

Mrs. Harwell enjoys her membership in the organization because it is both an educational and social outlet for mothers who must spend

most of their time at home with young children.

Mrs. Hunsucker, the Lutheran pastor's widow, talked about how much harder homemaking was half a century ago when most women were full-time homemakers. Recalling those early tomato clubs, she said girls and farm women were shown how to preserve the tomato crop in tall containers set over wood fires in the yard. "We would bring the water to a boil and put in the jars or cans for a hot water bath type of canning," she said. Back then the females of the farm families were taught how to plant, care for, and gather crops and do the processing of foods.

When Mrs. Marie Matheson was home agent from 1932 to 1942, programs featured poultry and culling the flock, milking the family cow, cleanup weeks, and beautification projects. Other programs included fertilization of crops, making fall clothing, informal



The first United Nations flags in Catawba County were made by Extension Homemakers Club members.

gardens, Christmas ideas, showing samples of new fabrics, and "singing schools" at which the women organized choral groups.

Wartime Activities

Wartime conditions dictated special studies for the women. They saved "cotton stamps" when fabric was rationed and they had civil defense meetings, inflation skits with a home-front plan for action, and held prayer services for men in service urging the public to join them in prayer every day at 8:30 o'clock. During World War II, the women did away with serving refreshments at their meetings and saved their rationing stamps.

Other wartime programs were varied—home care of the sick, demonstrating foundation garments (which brought a chuckle from Mrs. Hunsucker as she recalled the modesty of some members over that idea), infant care, and dressmaking by pinning garments onto dress forms rather than basting.

In the 1940's when Mrs. Wylie Knox Smith was county home agent the programs included laundry, housework, clothing, "constant care of children," canning, milking, poultry, garden and field work lectures. It was in that period that the women organized boys and girls into the 4-H clubs, and they previewed the building boom that followed the war years with a program, "Housing Today and Tomorrow."

The women folded bandages for the Red Cross, conducted health programs and finan-

cially aided the polio hospital set up in Hickory during the epidemic in 1944.

They promoted the sale of tuberculosis society Christmas Seals and took a health census to detect TB cases.

The clubwomen helped organize PTAs in the schools and took collections to buy books for school libraries when they were just being added to the school program.

Post-War Period

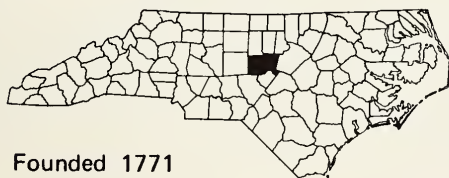
In 1947 women learned to use a new miracle fabric—nylon, which had been developed in the war years for parachutes and they learned to use the new post-war electrical appliances.

Homemakers had contests for the best dresses made from feed sacks, which came in calico prints. They refinished floors and furniture, aided their communities in cancer drives, and helped with Red Cross bloodmobile collections in 1949.

The women were part of the movement to erect all rural mailboxes on one side of the road. They took a survey to find out—in 1950—how many rural homes had telephones, central heat, indoor bathrooms, pressure cookers, radios and television sets, electricity, indoor plumbing and how they cooked and where their children played.

"Those are things we take for granted now, but they were modern signs of progress not too many years ago," Mrs. Hubert Moss concluded.

Chatham



Founded 1771

As early as June 1934, women came to realize that a home demonstration agent was a must in Chatham County. In July 1934, Mrs. Glenn Duncan, Mrs. Rufus Brewer, Mrs. J. B. Ingle, all of Silk Hope; Mrs. C. C. Poe and Mrs. J. B. Powers from Moncure; Mrs. Donald Lowe and Mrs. W. Julian Cheek of near Chapel Hill, met with county commissioners and presented a petition signed by many

Chatham women requesting a full-time home agent. Nothing could be done at that time.

However, under the leadership of Mrs. Duncan, the idea was kept alive.

In September 1935, Miss Grace Holcombe was sent by the state to work in Orange and Chatham Counties. On September 10, 1935, Miss Oswalt, emergency home demonstration agent, went to Silk Hope where a group of women were making and canning soup mixtures for the school lunch program. There in Silk Hope the *first* home demonstration club was organized. A week later clubs were organized in Moncure and Hickory Mountain.

The first county-wide meeting in Pittsboro was held on November 12, 1935, with six clubs in attendance. On that day the first county

council of home demonstration clubs was formed with officers as follows: president, Mrs. Glenn Duncan; vice-president, Mrs. Earl Dark; secretary, Mrs. M. F. Blackwelder; assistant secretary, Mrs. S. D. Cresswell; treasurer, Mrs. H. O. Vestal; song leader, Mrs. Rufus Brewer. The new county council voted to join the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. Miss Anamerle Arant, northwestern district agent, was present. She encouraged us to continue our efforts to secure a full-time agent and expressed the hope that the county would take over responsibility for an agent by July 1936.

Miss Koon Employed Full Time

In May 1936, nearly 100 women appeared before our county commissioners requesting that \$600 be appropriated ($\frac{1}{2}$ of salary) to employ a full-time agent. The commissioners seemed favorable, but could do nothing until the budget meeting in July. On the first Monday in July the women again appeared before the board to remind them about the home agent. A way to finance the \$600 had to be worked out, so nothing was done at that time. But at a special meeting Monday, July 13, 1936, necessary funds were appropriated.

Miss Sue Koon, Hickory, was employed as our first full-time home agent. Our first program was a county-wide demonstration on parliamentary procedure in October. On November 26, 1936, many of us saw our first pressure canner, as well as a demonstration on meat canning: beef, pork, sausage and liver.

The highlight of 1936 came December 4 when we held our first achievement day. We were privileged to have as our guest speaker Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, state agent, our "First Lady" of home demonstration. During 1937 and 1938 the major project was house furnishings, with emphasis on kitchen improvements, and in the following year living rooms and bedrooms. The minor project was gardens and food conservation. The following years, the major project was foods and nutrition—new dishes using meats and vegetables, meats and meat substitutes, yeast breads and balanced meals.

In 1939, the first honor graduate at State Farm and Home Week was Mrs. J. B. Fearrington from the Mt. Gilead club, and in

1940 there were three others, while 22 women from Chatham attended Farm and Home Week.

Miss Koon left in 1940 to work nearer her home, and Miss Flossie Whitley came to Chatham. She was our faithful and beloved leader until her retirement in the fall of 1969.

Mattress Project Started

It was in August 1940 that a popular mattress project was undertaken. For \$1.00 material for mattress could be purchased. By November, 143 mattresses had been completed.

It was in 1941 that women shifted from homes and foods to sewing. By the end of the year women made nearly 2,000 dresses, over 100 coats, and more than 1,000 undergarments. Over 300 garments were remodeled.

After Pearl Harbor, our blanket program became *Food For Defense*. These were trying years. Transportation to meetings was a problem. Club women served as neighborhood leaders, contacting 10 to 15 families to help in such things as home nursing and first aid and food production and conservation. Many club women went into war work. In 10 years Chatham clubs had grown in numbers from six to 17.

In the spring of 1945, Mrs. Glenn Duncan became the *first* woman from Chatham to serve as president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. In the fall we celebrated our 10th anniversary. Again, after 10 years, our guest speaker was Dr. Jane S. McKimmon. Clubs gained 100 new members in 1952. Club members were becoming more involved with community projects such as roadside improvement, improving first aid rooms in local schools, and securing sick-room equipment for local communities. In 1955 Mrs. Annabel Powers joined the Extension staff as home agent.

Negro Agent Appointed

Negro leaders came to realize that they needed and desired a Negro home agent to work with them to help solve their needs too, so in 1947, Negro home demonstration work began in Chatham. Miss Lovey Smith was the first home agent. The first club organized was Mt. View-Mt. Olive near Moncure.

On June 6, 1947, the new Negro agricultural

building was dedicated to the memory of Neil Alexander Bailey, the first Negro agent employed in North Carolina, and to the future agricultural, educational, economic and social development of Negro citizens.

Home demonstration clubs were organized throughout the county. Women in the Bynum-Hamlet community were so interested in organizing that some of them walked 2 or more miles to the organizational meeting of the Bynum-Hamlet club.

Club women recalled that one of the first and greatest things that happened to them was the introduction of the pressure canner by Miss Mildred Payton, the second Negro home agent. Club women also enjoyed the sewing and beautification programs offered by the Extension Service.

Another interesting facet of the Negro home demonstration clubs was their Christmas savings program. This program gave women the incentive and motivation to save money. At the monthly club meetings, members would put some money, any amount they could afford, into the Christmas savings account. At the December meeting this money was given back to the ladies. Some said they probably would not have been able to save as much money otherwise.

Miss Hassie Torain and Miss Edith Crowder were black home agents in Chatham County before the organization integrated. Miss Marietta Smallwood joined the Extension staff as home agent in 1969.

Prior to 1966, the home demonstration clubs (white) and the State Council of Home Demonstration Clubs (black) had been separate organizations, planning their own programs of work to fit their needs. Webster Club in Hadley Township with a membership of 22 at one time, so stirred community spirit that Mr. and Mrs. Gowins donated 2 acres of land for a center. A building was erected to be used as a meeting place for 4-H Clubs and the home demonstration club.

County Organizations Merge

During 1965 the two county organizations, 14 black and 19 white clubs, were reorganized

and merged into one organization with a new name: Extension Homemakers Association. That first year of integration the clubs worked together toward a common goal—to help rural women have a better life for themselves and their families. The exchange of ideas was beneficial.

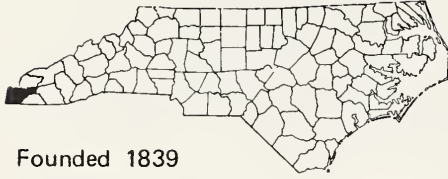
Quite a few years ago, organized club women came to realize that because of economic or family obligations many women could not join the club. Therefore, "Each One Reach One (or more)" became one of our important goals.

Leadership is a recognized product from organization of home demonstration clubs. The Chatham County organization has furnished its share. In 1947 Mrs. Glenn Duncan of Silk Hope club served as president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, and Mrs. Lillie Perry Lee of the Bynum-Hamlet club served as president of the State Council of Home Demonstration Clubs in 1958-60. She also served as county council president and western district president of the Council of Home Demonstration Clubs. Some other leaders were Mrs. Mary E. Henley of the Lystra club who was "Mother of the Year, 1963" and Miss Nelle R. Cheek of the Lystra club who received national recognition for her work as county cultural arts chairman. She also served as state chairman of cultural arts in the north central district. Mrs. Laura Lee of the Mt. View-Mt. Olive club served as president and secretary of the Western District of Council of Home Demonstration Clubs and Mrs. Roxie Small, Mitchell's Chapel club, served as state council treasurer.

Other interesting projects undertaken by Extension homemakers would include the 50-state bicentennial quilt made in 1976. The county council realized almost \$2,000 from this and the international tasting party sponsored by the international committee. Through this event club women were able to learn a little bit more about other countries.

Ms. Glennie Beasley replaced Miss Smallwood as home agent in 1974 and Ms. Ellen Teague filled the position vacated by Mrs. Powers in 1980.

Cherokee



Founded 1839

Agricultural Extension work began in Cherokee County in 1915 with L. C. Gilstrap as the first farm agent and Mrs. Maggie Mauney as the first home agent. Evidently, Mrs. Mauney began early to gather groups of women together for demonstrations in various communities.

In 1916 Mrs. Linnie Hatchett Brackett became home agent. Her sister, Mrs. Wilma McNabb, who often accompanied Mrs. Brackett around the county, reports that women in various communities were already accustomed to coming together in one home for demonstrations given by the home agent. Before assuming the position of home agent, Mrs. Brackett underwent thorough training in Raleigh led by Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon.

Horse and Buggy Days

Mrs. McNabb remembers well traveling through the county in a horse and buggy on the dirt roads that wove their way through the hills and valleys. When a demonstration on home canning green beans was planned in Unaka, the entire week was reserved. With the long distance to travel in those days, the first night was spent enroute around Grape Creek. Once Mrs. Brackett arrived in Unaka, the demonstration took 3 days to present. In those days the canning was done at the wash place. For those not familiar with a wash place, this is the place at the creek where the family wash was done and where all the laundry equipment was kept.

Canning procedures in those days called for beans to be cooked 1 hour per day for 3 days. For this, the wash pot was filled and the cooking was done on a fire at the wash place.

Mrs. McNabb reminisces about life in those days. She remembers that clothes were washed with a battling stick and refrigeration was unheard of. Town families often had an ice box to keep their perishables cool, and rural families were generally fortunate enough to have a spring for cooling foods. She remembers that drying pumpkin was in vogue

and drawn work taught by the home demonstration agent caught many of the homemakers' fancy. Sewing techniques and cut work were also taught. Mrs. Brackett organized the first tomato canning clubs for girls in Cherokee County in 1918. This was the beginning of 4-H clubs.

First County Fair

The first Cherokee County fair was held in Murphy in 1917. Homemakers in the county brought quite a variety of needlework and canned products to the fair as well as some garden vegetables. People came from the surrounding area to Murphy by horse and buggy and by train to survey the fair. Mrs. McNabb remembers that, even though this first fair was held in October, snow fell.

In 1919 Mrs. J. W. Dyer became home agent and carried the home demonstration programs through the summer months ending with a county fair. Then followed a period without a home agent. Mrs. R. H. Foard became home agent in 1931. In 1933 Mrs. Clyde A. Pleasants took over the work, and in 1934 Mrs. Anne Foard was home demonstration agent. During 1935-36 Mrs. Pauline Lintz served as home agent for both Cherokee and Graham Counties. Throughout these years very little can be found of details of home demonstration club work.

From 1937-44 Mrs. Alline Richardson King was home demonstration agent. She spent 2 weeks each month meeting with 4-H Clubs and 2 weeks meeting with home demonstration clubs. Mrs. Mattie Baker, who is still active in the Extension homemakers club, was hired as secretary for Mrs. King on the National Youth Administration (N.Y.A.) program. When hired Mrs. Baker could not type much, but a time was set aside each day for her to take typing instruction from the secretaries in the office next door.

When Mrs. King went out to meet with the home demonstration clubs in various communities, Mrs. Baker went along to assist. Most of the clubs had a large membership at that time. Many of the demonstrations given by the home demonstration agent were on food preparation. Mrs. Baker recalls demonstrations on how to bake a turkey, make gingerbread and bake ham. The agent generally went through the community in her car picking up club members to transport

them to the club meeting. Once there, Mrs. Baker had the responsibility of assembling and organizing all the supplies for the demonstration. Then Mrs. Baker would collect all the children brought along by club members and entertain them while Mrs. King gave the demonstration to the mothers.

During this period Cherokee County homemakers were instrumental in getting a bookmobile to serve rural communities. Also Mrs. King introduced the concept of canning in a pressure cooker for the first time in Cherokee County. Much of the food preserved in those days was either dried or pickled.

In 1942, an assistant home demonstration agent was hired under a T.V.A. program. This separated the role of 4-H work from home demonstration work. Miss Mary Cornwell was the first assistant agent. She went on to assume the adult work when Alline Richardson King left in 1944.

Soon after, in 1945, Miss Nancy Lunsford was hired as secretary. She remained in this position until retirement in 1980.

During the 1940's the first Cherokee County home demonstration council was formed binding together the clubs scattered throughout the county. Mrs. Evelyn Sudderth served as president of this first council. Also the first district council was formed during these years.

Lamps From Ashtrays

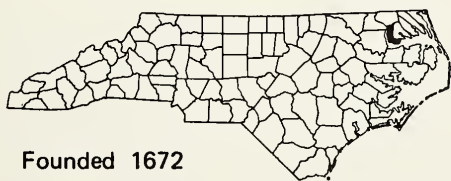
Miss Lunsford recalls that homemakers made crystal lamps from glass ashtrays in workshops. Copper enameling, silk screening and stool-bottoming were also featured. Miss Cornwell gave demonstrations on cooking, sewing and refinishing furniture. Each July family picnics were held in each community. These often took place in someone's pasture. The farm agent and the home demonstration agent usually joined forces to plan educational programs for the picnics.

While Miss Cornwell was agent, the Cherokee County Crafters was organized in 1947. In 1950 this group was accepted into the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild. This group was primarily an outgrowth of Cherokee County home demonstration clubs and has always had many members who also belong to Extension homemakers.

Some agents who served following Miss Cornwell were: Miss Edna Bishop, Mrs. Miriam Miller, Miss Thelma Wheeler, Mrs. Joy Frauson, Mrs. Pat Thompson Davis, Mrs. Jeanene Annest, Miss Shirley Hyatt, and again Mrs. Pat Davis.

Presently (1980), there are six active Extension homemakers clubs in Cherokee County with a membership of 110. The clubs are Grape Creek, Peachtree, Ranger, Martin's Creek, Peach Blossom, and Valletown.

Chowan



Chowan County has actively participated in the Extension program for over 60 years. Several current members were in tomato clubs before the formation of home demonstration clubs in the early 1900's.

Club work really began to flourish through the efforts of Mrs. Liza Knight Elliot. "Miss Liza" laughingly tells us of her early years . . . horse and buggy travel, train trips to hold meetings at the stations and waiting to catch the train back home. She later bought a Model T Ford and traveled the county freely, taking

a pistol along for protection and a burlap bag in case her car got stuck on a sandy backroad or lane.

Early club work concentrated on canning, preserving, drying and curing. The Chowan Club organized a lending library; the first in the county. Rebecca Colewell came to Chowan as an agent in 1935. Annie Charlton came in 1940 to work with Black homemakers. These ladies added great dignity to the club program. Efforts were made to promote victory gardens and mattress making during the war years. Many club houses were built or remodeled from old school buildings.

The community building was the hub of community life and the place for local gatherings and recreation. The Extension agents not only provided technical assistance but were a source of recreation information as well.

Maidred Morris Agent

The 1950's and early 1960's were a time when workshops of all kinds flourished. Maidred Morris was an agent to remember for her vim, vigor, and vitality. Pauline Calloway (1959-65) brought in the era of hat making. Hats were a must for church and other social occasions and the ladies found that it was economical as well as creative to design and make their own. Fran Ward (1962-present) brought creativity to fair booths, exhibits and posters with her artistic ability. Gladys White (1966-1979) promoted house furnishings with her specialty being reupholstering and refinishing furniture. Tailoring and sewing a fine seam were Daisy Bembury's (1964-1974) outstanding contributions.

The interest of homemakers has been expanded by the expertise of Theresa Ford and Connie Sherrill. The 1970's saw increasing interest in construction of clothing for men.

Club work was changing. Leaders were taking over more of the teaching with agents concentrating on special-interest meetings, mass media, workshops and leadership development.

The focus of club work was also expanding. Members had from the earliest beginning shared homemaking information with their neighbors and did community service. But the late 1960's and 1970's saw clubs sponsoring blood pressure clinics, housing fairs, clothing festivals, and food and health fairs. These concentrated efforts involved planning with nearby counties.

Agricultural Fair

The Chowan County agricultural fair has been an integral part of the life of Chowan County families for almost 30 years. The Chowan County Extension homemakers help others to enter contests, assist judges and participate through individual entries.

Chowan County homemakers have a rich history in creative crafts. A number have demonstrated and assisted with the Albemarle Craftsman's Fair co-sponsored by the Extension homemakers clubs in 10 Albemarle area counties. Fish netting, chair covering, basketry and needle work of all

kinds have been favorites.

The late 1960's saw the merging of black and white home demonstration clubs. Mrs. Ruth Overman, Mrs. Henry Bunch and Mrs. Ella Foxwell provided the leadership in the merger and the club women have come to appreciate working well with each other. The 1970's saw club women working to help establish a county-wide trash pick-up and water system.

Chowan County club women have focused on all areas of home economics but one strength has been in promoting stronger family ties through family life education. They have promoted such things as estate planning and programs for the aging and youth.

The Chowan County 4-H program has received encouragement and sponsorships from the 16 Extension homemaker clubs.

Most Clubs Excel

Clubs participate in many areas and many excel in some way. The Chowan, Byrd and Beech Fork clubs have provided leadership since the early 1920's. The CenterHill, Rocky Hock, Oak Grove, and Gum Pond clubs have had among their top projects building and maintaining community centers. The Ebonettes, Yeopim, Paradise Road and Colonial clubs have been outstanding in community service. Outstanding also have been the Ryland club for its youth work and driver safety; the Cape Colony and Baldy Oak clubs for health fund drives and blood-pressure clinic and the Enterprise club for promoting family fellowship.

One of our oldest and most loyal members, Mrs. Lillie Saunders of the Beech Fork club, tells us that her club work has ranked second only to her family and church. Our current council president, Mrs. May Julia Parrish, relates that her participation in Extension homemakers and 4-H Club work has enriched her knowledge, expanded her leadership abilities and helped her to perform in leadership roles on a county, district and state basis. The current club enrollment in Chowan County is 260. We are trying to plan and conduct our present programs to meet the changing needs of the 1980's.



Canning demonstrations were the forerunner of Extension Home Economics work in North Carolina.



Extension teachers show homemakers how to use pressure canners.



Extension Homemakers and their families earned "butter and egg" money at curb markets just like this one for many years.



State Extension Homemakers used to sponsor free health clinics and vaccination projects in years past.



The State Council of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs of North Carolina was established in 1940. In 1966 members became part of the Extension Homemakers Association.

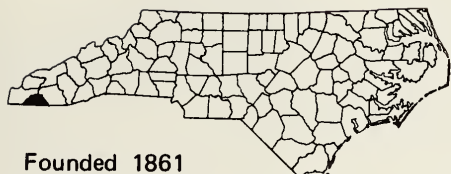


Extension Homemakers training has helped improve family living since the days of Mrs. R. V. Millikin, Lowes Grove, Durham County.



In 1942 they were called "Victory Gardens." In 1980 gardens are "in" again and are called "Inflation Fighters."

Clay



Founded 1861

Clay County was formed in 1861 from Cherokee County and named for Henry Clay, Kentucky's famed orator and statesman. It is located in southwestern North Carolina, joined on the west by Cherokee County, on the east and northeast by Macon County and on the south by the state of Georgia and contains 220 square miles. The Hiawasse River flows through the county.

In Clay County in the 1930's, nutrition was poor, homes lacked comfort and conveniences, churches were in a state of delapidation and school buildings were inadequate and overcrowded. The people felt insecure and confused.

Work Started in 1931

The first home demonstration club work in Clay County dates back to 1931 when Mrs. Robert Foard organized clubs over the county. She taught members how to make potato yeast for bread making and how to can meats and non-acid vegetables in the hot water bath, which was a great improvement over using Salicylic acid as some of the women were doing. Pressure canners had hardly been heard of at this time. Mrs. Foard also helped members with their sewing problems.

Her work was discontinued in 1933. She was followed by Rheta Hyatt who was only here from July 1 to August 11, 1934. On September 19, 1935, Mrs. K. M. O'Neil was appointed as a trial home agent for Macon and Clay counties. Mrs. O'Neil's headquarters was in Franklin where most of her time was spent, but she did have a few clubs in Clay. She stressed balanced meals, correct posture, regular habits and gave lectures on health and recreation.

When Mrs. O'Neil left on June 30, 1936, the women felt her loss keenly, and decided that, come what may, they were going to have an agent in Clay County. After 2 years of "feuding and fussin'" with the county commissioners, commissioners finally agreed to hire a home agent if the women would pay the county's part of her salary. They made quilts



Mrs. French Cabe, Ledford's Chapel Community, Clay County, checks out the supplies in her "can house."

and tufted bedspreads for sale, cooked for the Lions Club and raised money in every conceivable way and paid the county's share for 12 months. Mrs. M. E. Powers came to work October 3, 1938 and worked until July 20, 1940. Edith Barrier (McGlamery) served from October 28, 1940 to October 11, 1942. On November 17, 1941 Miss Velma Beam (Moore) came to work in Clay County. Buena Brown (Hedden) started work in September, 1942 and resigned September 1, 1947.

Food and Nutrition Programs

It took a coordinated effort on the part of agencies and farm families to bring about a change in the dreams and aspirations of Clay County people. Food and nutrition programs were presented in the homes and schools. Club women appeared before civic and community groups to dramatize the basic-seven food groups.

The period before, during, and just after World War II, saw a tremendous growth in home demonstration work, with a full-time staff of agents and secretary. Much work was done on home improvement, community development and better nutrition. At one time



Buena Hedden and Velma Beam Moore pay a home visit to the Ed L. Crawfords, Oak Forest Community, Clay County.

during the 1940's 19 Extension home demonstration clubs were active in Clay County.

Churches began to take on a new look and were either rebuilt or some major improvement made. Roadsides began to be cleaned up, and in some communities houses were built so that meetings could be held in them.

In 1945, 1,278 people were employed in agriculture and 112 in manufacturing. Estimated effective buying income per family was \$864 in 1946. Clay County is and has been primarily an agricultural community.

Virginia Kight (Anderson) started work September 1, 1948 and worked until February 28, 1954 as assistant home economics Extension agent. Freida Dean Morgan (Terrell) worked from March 16, 1958 until 1964 with Jerell Beal employed from 1964 to 1965.

Velma Beam (Moore) retired in 1958 after many years of untiring work with the women of Clay County. Mena Woodle worked during 1959 followed by Justine Rozier from January 1960 to the fall of 1964. Ruby Penland (Corpening) began work on January 1, 1965 as home economics Extension agent and worked

until her retirement March 1, 1977. Nina Bowman started work June 1, 1977 and resigned June 18, 1979. Karol Scroggs worked a short while from October 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980.

The accomplishments achieved by all these dedicated workers include workshops on nutrition, food preservation, crafts, upholstering and refinishing furniture, mattress and breadmaking. Classes were held in personal grooming, stress, weight control, and sewing. In recent years with so many homemakers working, special-interest programs have become important. Miss Scroggs organized a young homemakers club and met with them at night because all the members worked during the day.

Homemakers Publish Paper

For a short period during the early days a paper entitled *The Clay County Mountain Laurel* was published by the Extension homemakers. This was during a period when there was not a county paper being published.

The Clay County Beautification Committee, an outgrowth of work by Extension homemakers, instigated plans to restore the

old county jail as a historical building. The building after being renovated is being used as a cultural arts museum.

The annual arts and crafts festival began in 1973 and has continued each year as a fund-raising project for the Extension homemakers county council.

The homemakers organized and presented a health fair one year. Other health drives they have participated in have been the blood-mobile, heart fund and diabetes clinic.

County-wide clean-up campaigns have also been sponsored from time to time.

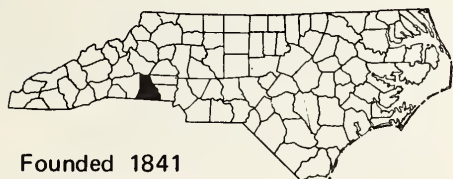
The renovation of the historical county

courthouse and the beautification of the town square was supported by Extension homemakers.

In 1969 the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) was started in Clay County, with two nutrition aides hired to work under the direct supervision of the home economics Extension agent.

For several years the Extension office was housed in the Masonic Building in one big room. In 1979 agents moved into the new county Community Service building where they are now in beautiful modern offices.

Cleveland



Founded 1841

Home demonstration work in Cleveland County began January 1, 1915 under the leadership of Mrs. Susan O. Elliott Weathers. Five clubs were organized. The work was mostly canning and the clubs were called canning clubs.

Miss Bertha Herman succeeded Miss Elliott on January 1, 1918 and worked through April 30, 1920. Several more clubs were organized and a few community fairs were held. Work progressed slowly as the agent traveled in a buggy and could contact only a few women.

The main problem at first was getting the women and girls organized. In the early years there was some objection to college-trained homemakers as the experienced housewife was thought to be better qualified to train and help women and girls. This barrier was gradually broken down as the women gained a better understanding of the services being offered.

World War I Work

The greatest contribution homemakers made in World War I was the preparation of new dishes from the food that was available. The leaders were very active in Red Cross work and knitted many sweaters and socks for the soldiers. Garments and sheets were made

for army hospitals. Also, new cotton undergarments were made for Belgium refugees. During the influenza epidemic, the home agent's office supervised the soup and other food preparations for the temporary hospital.

Miss Elizabeth Cornelious came to the county as home agent in 1920. She organized the groups into sewing clubs during the winter and canning clubs during the summer. The clubs were known as home demonstration clubs. Community fairs were held all over the county and people were becoming very enthusiastic.

In 1923, Mrs. Irma P. Wallace was appointed home agent and led the work through 1933. Poultry, dairying, and fall and winter gardens were stressed. The clubs began to make rapid progress.

During this time the Polkville Club put on an exhibit at the first Cleveland County fair in 1923 and won first prize of \$15. Everything in the booth was made from sacks of all types from fertilizer to small tobacco bags. Exhibited were rugs, bed spreads, dresses, shirts and a complete layette.

Another club organized in the early 1920's was the Warlick Club. The name Warlick was chosen for the club because it was made up of Warlicks or their kin and was in the Warlick community. These members later joined with the Belwood community and membership grew to over 40. The club is still known as the Belwood Club.

The programs in these early clubs were on home improvement, better methods of cooking and sewing and better sanitation and lighting.

In 1928 the county federation, now called

county council, was organized. Mrs. O. A. Rhea was the first president. At this time we affiliated with the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Two Years Without Agent

The county commissioners eliminated the home agent in 1932. For 2 years the women carried on the work without the agent but were guided by the fine spirit of Mrs. Huff Hamrick, federation president.

Miss Frances McGregor was appointed agent July 1, 1934 and worked through April 30, 1937. The major project carried on during these years was home improvement. Lessons were given on treating walls and floors, selection of paper and pictures for walls, correct picture hanging, arranging furniture for comfort and convenience and renovating old furniture. Miss McGregor also sponsored a county-wide kitchen improvement contest.

In 1937 Miss Hilda Sutton succeeded Miss McGregor. Clothing was the major project for 2 years. Buying of materials, correct fitting and sewing, grooming and other important points were stressed. Miss La Una Brashears became home agent in 1940 and worked with the clubs until July 30, 1963. Landscaping, planting shrubs, laying out drives and walks and home improvements were stressed during these years.

On January 1, 1947 Miss Adelaide C. Morehead began work as the first Negro home agent in Cleveland County. During the first 6 months of that year clubs were organized in Washington, Eskridge Grove, Camp, Kings Mountain, Vance Grove, Green Bethel, Borders, Philadelphia, and Lawndale communities. Of these clubs Eskridge (Weathers) Grove, Camp, Philadelphia and Lawndale are still in existence.

Mrs. Pennie P. Battle worked in the county from July 1, 1947 to September 15, 1947. On September 16, 1947 Thelma E. McVea succeeded Mrs. Battle as agent. During the fall of this year clubs were organized in the Long Branch and Mooresboro communities. The name of the Mooresboro Club was changed to Ellie-Jolly in 1968. These two clubs are still active.

Of the 11 clubs started in 1947, memberships of all were of farm women with the exception of the Kings Mountain group which

met at night. The other 10 clubs held afternoon meetings.

The Cleveland County Council of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs was organized in the fall of 1947 with Mrs. Alice Hamilton as president. Members included officers of the 11 clubs.

In 1948 county and home agents met with key leaders in communities to determine boundaries of the community and outline specific problems of the families. As a result of this study, home demonstration clubs were organized in Hopewell, Flat Rock, Compact, Ebenezer, Patterson Springs and Earl communities. Those still active are Compact and Ebenezer.

The Galilee-Goldmine Club was organized in 1959 and the Logan Center Club for homemakers in the low-housing apartments in Shelby was organized in 1967. At the end of 1948 there were a total of 19 Negro clubs in the county, of which nine have been continuous.

Negro Families Migrate

With the changing farm patterns and displacement of tenant farmers, which began in 1950 (the boll weevil year), the majority of Negro families left Hopewell, Flat Rock, Patterson Springs and Earl. There was a great migration out of the county to Shelby or to other communities within the county. These four clubs were discontinued.

In the year 1951, 1952, and 1953 the working status of Negro club women changed. Farm women began off-the-farm employment. Club meeting times had to be changed. Today a total of 10 hold night meetings.

Early club programs included food production and conservation, care and use of pressure canners, storage of food and nutritional needs for all family members. Improved sanitation in and around the homes, screens and sanitary privies were needed. Annual clean—use—paint-up and fix-up campaigns were sponsored by the county council.

Club programs during the later years included home management, clothing, house furnishings, family relations, housing and nutrition.

The County Council of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs became a member of the Western District Negro Home Demonstration Federation in May 1948 and a member of the

State Council of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs in March 1948.

The council met quarterly at which time an educational program was presented. Mental health, child development, sanitation, and medical and health services were some of the programs given.

In 1966 the two councils were combined into one and the name was changed from home demonstration to Extension homemakers clubs. Mrs. E. Earle Moore, St. Paul's homemakers club, was the first president of the new council.

Miss Jessie Ann Wingo began work with the clubs on July 1, 1959. As in the past, she continued to try to keep homemakers up-to-date on home and ground improvement, clothing,

nutrition, family relations and home management.

Miss Thelma E. McVea retired June 30, 1977 and Mrs. Nancy H. Abasiekong came to the county September 1, 1977. She and Miss Wingo share Extension homemakers club responsibility. In October 1978 clubs were reorganized into area groups, to meet together for three programs during the year and to have the agents attend individual club meetings once a year.

For the past few years emphasis has been placed on energy conservation, curbing inflation, effective parenting, and changing eating habits for more healthful living.

In 1980 there were 22 Extension homemakers clubs with 283 members.

Columbus



Founded 1808

Although the Columbus County commissioners had supported Extension work for men since 1911, it was not until 1917 that this board made the first appropriation for a home demonstration agent. Since that time (except for 10 years, 1933-43) the commissioners have supported home demonstration work. In September, 1966, the name of the organization was changed to Columbus County Extension homemakers clubs.

Faithful Women

Faithful women like Mrs. J. P. Hammond and Mrs. Estelle Wooten Fletcher, who were on the first county council in 1925, are still members of Extension homemakers in 1980. The first county council was organized on January 10, 1925; at the same time, a county board of agriculture was organized by the farm agent. These two organizations began the joint promotion of farm and home work in the county. Since 1925, 23 women have served as county council presidents.

Other women, too, have been ready and willing to continue learning how to make a

better home, to accept leadership responsibilities, and to share their knowledge with others. Since 1932, 32 women from the county have served as district officers. Through 1980 six women had served in various capacities at the state level.

Leadership achievement awards to twelve outstanding homemakers in North Carolina,



Columbus County quilt made by Extension Homemakers Club members.

based on leadership covering a long period of service, have been given to three Columbus County women. Silver trays and plaques have been presented to Mrs. Walter Shaw, Evergreen, in 1961; Mrs. Eugene Smith, Western Prong, in 1962; and Mrs. Alma Bullock, Cerro Gordo, in 1963.

Home Economics Agents

Improvement in the quality of life of rural women would have been impossible without the leadership of county home economics agents and assistants. There were names like Clark, Conrath, Capehart, Kohler, Limley, Lankford, Cleveland, Spaulding, Rainwater, Williams, Mallard, Eakes, Ratliff, Wells, Noble (Blake), Valentine, Gibson, Bennett (Ray), Garrell, Hammonds, Marshbourne, Holland, Johnson, Capps (Thompson), Robinson, Wilson, Burnette (McDowell), Bobo (Hall), and Dixon. There were home agents with terms extending from 2 months to the 25 years that Mrs. Elaine Noble Blake has served as agent in Columbus County.

National honor came to Mrs. Elaine N. Blake in 1967, when she was chosen to receive a Distinguished Service Award at the National Association of Extension Home Economists' annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. Another honor came to Mrs. Blake in 1978 when she was presented the Outstanding Leadership Award by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

With a spirit of willingness to adapt methods to changing needs, Columbus Countians have seen agents manage a soup kitchen and a make-shift hospital in the courthouse during the influenza epidemic of 1918. A joint program of work has been carried out with farm and home agents showing movies from the back of a truck with equipment bought with county fair exhibit prize money. A curb market, poultry association and Lake Waccamaw encampment were begun in 1925. Kitchen and yard improvement contests, flower shows, and plant exchanges have encouraged women to improve their lot.

There have been training meetings for newlyweds, parents of children and teenagers, and grandparents. Training in crafts have been provided people of all ages and abilities. There have also been classes or workshops in house planning, furniture refinishing, gardening, poultry raising, landscaping, insurance,

estate planning, clothing, home management, defensive driving, stress, lap reading, food preparation and food conservation.

Club members have been trained as 4-H leaders, project leaders, and nutrition aides so they might help others in their clubs, county, district and state. To help train the public as well as club members, a "Synergetics Expo '78" was held with over 1,500 attending. The "Synergetics on Wheels '79" was a follow-up in energy saving and an inflation workshop in 1980 met needs of people in clothing, foods, insurance, decorating, mobile homes and transportation.

Extension Homemakers

Extension homemakers' work in Columbus County cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The county was aware of the strength of the work when in February 1931, the county commissioners decided to discontinue home agent's work in June of that year. (Also, the welfare officer position was to be discontinued.) "This reduction amounts to \$1,200 out of county treasury," a news item mentioned. However, in July 1931, when over 200 women from the county protested, the commissioners rescinded previous action of abolishing home demonstration work. In an editorial on July 9, 1931, *The News Reporter*, Whiteville, congratulated "the women of the county who through the efforts of Miss Cleveland in her capacity as home demonstration agent, will be able to continue a work which has been steadily growing for the past 12 years." It did continue, but only until July 1933, when there was no more women's work for almost 10 years. (Actually, the home demonstration work was reinstated in 1941, when Miss Hattie Pearl Mallard was elected home agent. She served only 2 months, so the work was discontinued again.)

In July 1943, when Miss Genevieve Eakes became home agent, the women were ready for a new beginning. By 1946 there were 12 clubs with 205 members meeting monthly; by 1948, the work had increased so much that an assistant agent was added.

A recent article in *Tarheel Homemaker* said that "continued education and leadership development are the primary aims" of Extension homemakers. Extension work has broadened the interests of Columbus Countians, made them willing to change with the

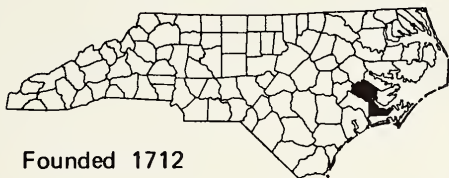
changing times, helped them accept leadership roles and responsibilities, and made them aware of human needs throughout the world.

The reading program begun in 1948 has encouraged women to continue learning. In cooperation with the NCSU humanities department, seminars have been offered rang-

ing from baseball to creative writing and Dickens. Clubhouses have been built in six communities as Extension homemaker projects.

Today, with its 20 Extension homemakers clubs composed of 282 members, Columbus County is an important part of the largest women's organization in the world.

Craven



The Craven County home Extension "roots" date back to the early years of the Craven County Farm Life School—the first school to be established under the Farm Life School Law passed by the state legislature in March 1911. The school opened in 1913.

"Tomato clubs" were started to teach women and girls the proper method of canning tomatoes. An early pioneer in demonstrating was Nancy McLawhorn who traveled by horse and buggy around the county.

The food conservation program expanded to include safe methods of canning all types of fruits and vegetables, so the tomato club eventually became known as the home demonstration club in 1920.

Home economics agents in Craven County were Esther Gray, 1917-1923; Cornelia Simpson, 1923-1930; Rachel Everett, 1930-1933; Esther Gray Willis, 1933-1935; Jessie Trowbridge, 1935-1953; Rebecca Colwell, 1953-1965; Nelda Howell, 1965-1971; and Frances M. Walker, now serving. A long list of assistant and associate agents helped further the programs throughout the county.

Council Formed in 1922

In 1922 the Craven County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs was formed and continues to function under the name of Craven County Extension Homemakers Council.

County women began developing leadership abilities in every area of life in the many clubs in the county.

Just as the club women had responded during World War I, they assisted the needy during the economic upheaval of the 1930's by demonstrating the proper use of canning equipment and safe methods of canning.

About this time, the school lunchroom program had its beginning, sometimes sponsored by home demonstration clubs and often assisted by club members with their donations of canned tomatoes and food.

Through the years, as the need arose, homemakers have had all kinds of programs to enable them to become informed citizens, not only of Craven County but of the state, national and world areas. Enrichment tours and trips were available. Members learned about the United Nations and were glad to support this effort for peace and understanding in the world. County women participated in study tours of the UN, presented UN flags to schools, and informed others in the community about the UN.

Craven women participated and enjoyed the annual meeting of the North Carolina homemakers when it was held on the last day of "Farm and Home Week" on the North Carolina State University campus.

In reflecting back over the years—there have been programs and tips on just about everything: hat making, drapery construction, frozen foods, interior decorating, color coordination, kitchen planning, making of wills and repair of small appliances.

Music Program Backed

In the early 1950's, home demonstration club women joined with others across the state to discuss the lack of music education in the public schools. A Craven County Extension homemaker was among the group who presented a petition to the state legislature.

Many Craven women have participated in the leadership training workshops at Meredith

College in Raleigh. Craven women have displayed tremendous traits of leadership—not only as club, county, and district officers and chairmen but in other areas as well. There have been A & P and VEEP Award winners. Mrs. Lucille Pate served as state president in 1958 and Mrs. Corrinne McCain, state secretary.

“Through the years as times have changed some clubs have disbanded and others have been formed. An endless parade of Craven women have received benefits from the Extension Service as is evidenced by the improved standard of living for families far beyond the farm family of yesteryear. The experience has been staggering and priceless” reports Mrs. Margaret Watson who wrote a Craven County “recall” skit for achievement day during the 60th anniversary year.

Local projects continue in medical clinics, schools, mental health association, blood-mobiles, child development centers, rescue

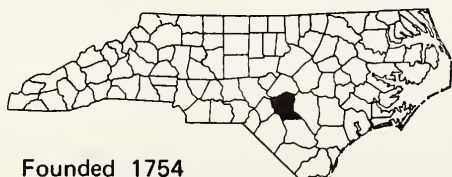
squads, libraries, city parks, nursing home visits, neighborhood watch, “Eyes for the Needy,” crafts, county fair, energy saving devices, CPR and others as need arises.

Bicentennial Celebration

Highlighting projects of recent years was the bicentennial celebration held in New Bern in 1974. Extension homemakers had a “tea tasting shoppe,” craft show and sale in the Mohn House of the Tryon Palace complex. Over 3,000 visitors from 28 states and 3 foreign countries enjoyed the tea and benne seed cookies served during 2 open days by homemakers in authentic colonial costumes.

In 1980, the following clubs were active: Beech Grove, Bridgeton, Contemporary, Dover, Dover-Moseley Creek, Farmlife, Glenburnie Gardens, Havelock, Krafters Klatch, Neuse Forest, 76’ers, Vance, Vanceboro and Winter Garden.

Cumberland



Work with Cumberland County Extension homemakers clubs began in 1914 under the leadership of Mrs. Gretchen Bayne, Mrs. Elizabeth Gainey, Mrs. J. P. Byrd and Miss Lucy Currie. Extension home demonstration club work for blacks began in 1944 under the leadership of Mrs. Janet Bass.

The clubs were known as “tomato clubs” and the first work was with young girls. Each girl planted 1/10 acre of tomatoes and brought them to community canneries to preserve. The canned tomatoes were sold on local markets.

The next major emphasis was on bread-making with the women coming to the meetings with their daughters in buggies and wagons.

Fireless Cooker

The fireless cooker marks another milestone in home demonstration club work in the county. The cooker was made of a lardstand,

surrounded by sawdust and placed in a wooden box. Soapstones were heated to a high temperature and one was put in the bottom of the stand. The pot of food to be cooked was placed on it. The pan was covered and another soapstone was placed on top and left overnight, or several hours, to produce a tender piece of meat. This was really the beginning of our modern “crock pot.”

During World War I, the home demonstration women concentrated on better gardens and food conservation as food was stored as part of the war effort. Soup kitchens were provided to cope with the flu epidemic of 1918. The depression intensified the food conservation need and brought about another major project of mattress making, often a combination of shucks and cotton. Families constructed their own mattresses which made it possible for many to acquire their first comfortable mattress during really “hard times.”

Cumberland County has had two presidents of the state organization—Mrs. Lacy McArthur of 71st community in 1924 and Mrs. Annie Godwin of the Godwin community in 1941.

To help increase income of farm families a curb market was established in 1918 on Green Street. The women sold cantaloupes, dressed



Sellers at the Cumberland County curb market in 1962 included Rebekah Evans (left) and Mrs. A. W. Smith.



Officers prepare for Cumberland County achievement day in 1950.

chickens, cakes, vegetables, sausage and liver pudding from their buggies. In 1919 the market moved to Franklin Street, and later to an expanded location on Russell Street. The market provided an income for women to educate children and help raise their family's level of living.

Home demonstration clubs sponsored Cumberland Memorial Park to offer a natural setting where families and groups could enjoy the outdoors together. Mrs. James Gillis and Mrs. Annie Godwin, as co-chairmen, led the county council to establish a memorial monument and park to those who made the supreme sacrifice for our country's freedom. Two covered picnic shelters were built and playground equipment was erected. Picnic areas and paved drives were established. Funds for this project were raised by the sale of paper daisies drawn by Mrs. Olive Goldthorpe. The daisies were cut out by members and sold in cooperation with county 4-H club members. The park continues as a memorial to our war dead, with the State Wildlife Commission responsible for its upkeep.

Program emphasis has focused through the years on the needs of people such as establishing a book mobile, improving school

lunches and promoting mental health. Homemakers recognized the importance of working together to reach a common goal. Extension homemaker clubs in the county meet together four times a year to plan future projects and return to their local clubs to recruit leadership for plans of action.

Council Presidents

County council presidents have provided a vital link between the state organization and the local club. Among the persons that have served in this position are the following:

Mrs. C. G. Gainey, Mrs. J. L. Reaves, Mrs. S. H. Lee, Mrs. Edgar Draughon, Mrs. J. McN. Gillis, Mrs. I. M. Huggins, Mrs. L. D. Hubbard, Mrs. W. C. Beasley, Mrs. Isabelle Kelly, Mrs. Alfred Brafford, Mrs. Hugo Leutjohann, Mrs. B. T. Williams, Mrs. Broadus Jones, Mrs. Annie Godwin, Mrs. Lacy McArthur, Mrs. James Gillis, Mrs. Francis Gainey, Mrs. Estelle Gainey, Mrs. Louise Faircloth, Mrs. Lucille Faircloth, Mrs. Louise Dove, Mrs. Ruby McMillian, Mrs. Marian Gunnells (Present).

Today there are 21 Extension homemakers clubs in Cumberland County with a paid membership of 192.

Currituck



Founded 1668

Home demonstration work in Currituck County began with the arrival of Miss Rachel Everett in 1925. Joseph P. Knapp, a sportsman from New York, made this possible by special funds which he placed in the hands of Miss Maude C. Newberry, county superintendent of education. There was no county farm agent at that time, but Miss Everett worked closely with the agriculture teachers in the schools.

The board of education furnished and equipped demonstration centers at the county seat and at Knotts Island which were used only under the supervision of the agent and locked during her absence. At Poplar Branch and

Moyock schools, the agent was allowed to use the domestic science room equipment and at Powells Point school, similar facilities were acquired.

During her third year, Miss Everett worked under the supervision of the board of agriculture composed of J. S. Newbern, chairman, Tully Williams and Dudley Bagley. They helped to secure an office for the agent by persuading the county commissioners to have a small room built in the corner of the courtroom. The women paid \$54 for materials and the board of agriculture built the room. The women furnished it. There was no typewriter in the office, and the part-time secretary (paid by Miss Everett) had to take her own typewriter.

Appropriation Cut Off

The appropriation for the agent's work ended July 1, 1928. The county commissioners promised to continue the work for another year if they could obtain the money. A lengthy

murder trial that year had cost the county \$3,000 which depleted the general fund. It was soon realized that a bill had to be passed through state legislature allowing the commissioners to levy a 2% tax to finance the work. The county representative was invited to speak to the county council and tell the women how they could get such a bill through legislature. The commissioners invited those opposed to the tax levy to come before the board. Two hundred women and 12 men appeared at the courthouse in favor of retaining the Agricultural Extension Service with the home agent continuing her work. No one was opposed.

At this time, a farm agent was also requested. Miss Everett continued her work until 1928 and was followed by these agents:

Miss Virginia Edwards (Brumsey), 1928-1943; Mrs. Kathleen Snyder, 1943-1946; Mrs. Margaret Myers (Bray), 1946-1951; Mrs. Elizabeth P. Sanderlin, 1951-1969; Mrs. Lou H. Capps, 1970-1975; Mrs. Judy Latham, 1976-1977; Mrs. Jessica Tice, 1977.

Home demonstration work progressed each year, but the first years were experimental ones—fun years—years that the charter

members will cherish and remember for years to come.

The Years Before Extension

Some of the older members remember conditions that existed before Extension work began. There were no power lines in the county, but some families had Delco plants. The water supply came mostly from wells or hand pumps. Toilets were outdoor ones. Many houses were not screened and flies and mosquitoes were prevalent. Lawns were not planned or planted, and livestock often roamed the yards making mud holes. The foundations of most houses were not enclosed.

A women's advisory council was organized in 1927 to act as the executive body for a county federation composed of club officers in the county.

Leaders began to be developed by the home agents. They helped to change conditions with educational programs and contests and with families working together.

Most of the clubs have acquired buildings to be used as club houses and community buildings. Club houses have been built by Poplar Branch, Powells Point, Jarvisburg, Coin-



Home Agent Virginia Evans admires the truck J. H. Overton uses when delivering eggs from Coinjock to hotels at Nags Head and Kitty Hawk.

jock and Shawboro clubs. These are used as voting places, for wedding receptions, benefit and fellowship dinners, and family reunions. Some of the club houses are shared by Ruritan clubs.

Some Successful Projects

Club members cleaned and refinished the benches in the courtroom and bought a used piano. Since no electricity was available in 1931, the women requested the county to install a Delco plant for lighting. There were no community buildings in the county at that time, and the courtroom was used for federation meetings, banquets, political meetings, and other events. The club sponsored many of these events because there were no civic clubs in the county at that time.

The women became annoyed by finding moldy bread for sale in stores. In 1931, a group of club women went to visit General Baking Company in Norfolk, Virginia, requesting better bread. They were successful.

The nutrition of the family has always been of prime interest. In 1927, a screening program was done at Currituck School, and it showed that 48% of the children were underweight and 41% were sufficiently underweight to be in the danger zone. This put the women on their toes. Shawboro club raised \$300 and began preparing soup for the children with Mrs. George Grandy in charge. This led to meals such as beef stew, vegetable salad, roll and coffee for 10¢.

Two of the most important projects undertaken by the club women of the county were the campaigns for bringing electricity and telephones to the county.

In 1932, club women began making preserves, pickles and jelly. This led to a marketing project which was assisted by Mrs. Dudley Bagley and Emory Smith of the Currituck Mutual Exchange. The products were packaged, attractively labeled and sold by mail to many a northern sportsman. Mrs.

Genevieve West designed the labels.

Beginning in 1936, the club women of Dare and Currituck Counties cooperated in establishing a curb market at Nags Head to furnish the people in summer cottages with fresh vegetables, eggs, and dairy products. Up to 20 women earned \$4,118.25 during the first four years of this project.

One market day, Hilda Mathias had taken a coconut marshmallow creme cake. That happened to be the day that President Franklin Roosevelt attended a showing of Paul Green's drama, *The Lost Colony*. Someone bought the cake and gave it to the President. A 10-year-old girl standing there said that she didn't know he was going to take it home with him!

Cultural Arts

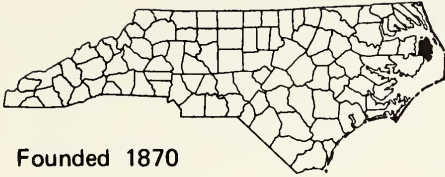
In the field of cultural arts, Mrs. G. C. Boswood was one of the first county music leaders. She encouraged the clubs to produce musical programs throughout the county. These were well attended and included "community sings" during the lighting of outdoor Christmas trees.

School librarians assisted the club women in securing books from the state library. These traveling libraries consisted of about 25 books packed in locked wooden boxes. They were kept in the homes of club members or in public places and exchanged after a few weeks. Members were encouraged to read and make book reports in their clubs.

The Poplar Branch club gave a play which was seen by W. O. Saunders, editor of *The Independent* in Elizabeth City. He was so impressed with the acting that he arranged for the play to be shown at the Carolina Theater in Elizabeth City.

Mrs. John Yon, with the assistance of her husband, designed and named the club newspaper "Currituck Calls" which she edited for 10 years. Her idea came from a state publicity meeting held in Raleigh.

Dare



During the trying years of 1916, 1917 and 1918 the world in general was in a period of high tension and grave unrest. The terrible World War was raging in Europe and we, the United States, had become involved.

The effects of this great disaster were being felt in every community and family in America. Thousands and thousands of our own boys were on the battlefield striving to save the world for Democracy. We at home, felt it our profound duty to do all that we could to cooperate in winning a great cause. In order to feed those on the firing lines and in other branches of service we were observing wheatless days, meatless days and sugarless days as well as methods of conserving food. Our fields were urged to their maximum production.

Brickhouse First Agent

It was under such conditions as these that C. M. Brickhouse came to Dare County as the county's first Agricultural Extension agent during the winter of 1917.

Mr. Brickhouse took his place as a leader among the people of the county. His agricultural program was started with many farmers following his recommendations. Travel was very difficult due to the county being split up by water. To leave Roanoke Island and visit other points in the county, travel was necessarily by boat and then by horse.

The agricultural program began to get a good foothold during the year. Although the agricultural possibilities were quite limited and progress slow, this new agent established lasting impressions. In the latter part of 1917 as Uncle Sam was calling for more men on the battle lines, Mr. Brickhouse felt it his duty to go. So, with only a few months of valuable service rendered by its first county agent, Dare County was again without an Extension agent.

With only about 125 farms in Dare County, and fishing the main occupation, many county people felt that there was no need for a county

agent. Spurred by these citizens' opinions the board of county commissioners failed to continue the work.

As both county agent and home demonstration work developed in other counties, Dare looked on. Finally the idea developed that we may not need a county agent but—what about a home demonstration agent? We surely have enough homes and our homemakers can benefit by such a program if others can.

Miss Carter Home Agent

An appropriation was made by the county executives in cooperation with the State College Extension Service and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In the fall of 1929 Miss Alice Mary Carter was hired as the county home demonstration agent.

Miss Carter found the work quite difficult as it was entirely new to the people. Much of her travel was by boat and ferry and in many cases automobile travel was over bad roads. Facing these handicaps Miss Carter set out with determination to make the work successful in Dare County.

The little town of Manteo, located on Roanoke Island and the county seat, became the home agent's headquarters. Miss Carter shared an office with the county grand jury and when court was in session she had to vacate the office. This caused an inconvenience, especially at report time.

Miss Carter carried her program to every community in the county. Progress was slow. Eight of the communities could be reached only by boat. Although the work was difficult and travel at times hazardous, this pioneer worked with confidence and determination, gradually winning the hearts of the people and helping them establish practices that led to better homes, better communities and a better life.

The first home demonstration club was organized in Manteo in the Tranquil House garden with 12 members and Mrs. A. J. Willis as president. The Wanchese club was organized with Mrs. Ben Cahoon as president. Following these, clubs were organized at Kitty Hawk, Stumpy Point, and other communities. There were only small groups of women at first but these soon grew to a larger group with around 200 families being reached each month. Each club held a monthly meeting at

the home of one of the members.

In the course of time roads improved, ferries were established and travel became less difficult. Miss Carter was able to reach most of her clubs by automobile, even those located in the communities of Rodanthe, Waves, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Salvo, and Hatteras. However, many times her car was stuck in deep sand or the motor was drowned by high water, leaving her to be rescued by the U. S. Coast Guard.

Short Course in Raleigh

In the summer of 1932 Miss Carter took three club women to the Farm and Home Short Course held at N. C. State College in Raleigh. This number of Dare County homemakers increased each year until in the summer of 1935 Miss Carter and the women from Dare County won the gavel for the largest number of women traveling the greatest number of miles to the short course.

Realizing that the girls of today become the women of tomorrow, Miss Carter began working with the girls. Girls' 4-H clubs were organized in every school in Dare County. Projects consisted of cooking, sewing, and canning. Work with both women and girls progressed.

Community projects were conducted by the various clubs such as landscaping the court house grounds, planting living Christmas trees, and setting shrubbery along the highway. In season the beautiful pink crepe myrtles that visitors see planted along the causeway to Roanoke Island are a welcome reminder of club member efforts.

During the summer of 1936 Miss Carter's health began to fail. She accompanied her group of 10 women to the State Short Course but returned to Manteo ill. In September she was confined to her bed. It seemed that she had spent her strength in her work and now had to face illness with little to build on. She was removed to the Norfolk hospital for treatment but her service was finished. On September 25th she died.

Miss Carter Passes

Sadness came to all of Dare County when news of Miss Carter's death arrived. She was greatly missed by people in all walks of life, but her memory and work will continue to be a

living monument to her tireless efforts and love for Dare County.

On January 1, 1937, Miss Saddle Hendley took up the home demonstration work in Dare County. Miss Anne Powel, agent-at-large, assisted Miss Hendley in getting started. C. W. Overman was procured as county agent and took up his duties on February 1, 1937. This set up an agricultural team for the work in Dare County.

These agents discussed the work with the county board of commissioners. The fishing industry was failing fast and it was necessary to encourage and teach the people to grow as much of their food supply as possible, and to develop new sources of income along agricultural lines.

A cooperative plan of work was prepared. This provided for more and better home gardens, conservation of food by canning and a complete program of boys and girls 4-H club work.

Eleven home demonstration clubs were organized by 1937. A group of home demonstration women, with the home agent, attended the Farm and Home Week almost every year.

In February 1939 the Manteo home demonstration club agreed to furnish the kitchen of the community building. A play was staged raising \$65. An oil stove and refrigerator were purchased.

Assist With Lost Colony

During 1937-39 assistance in community activities was rendered by both agents. Paul Green's noted drama, "The Lost Colony" was first staged at Old Fort Raleigh in 1937, beginning on July 4 and running through Labor Day, three nights each week. In 1938 and 1939 this drama was enacted, running four and five nights each week respectively. The home agent acted as one of the hosts while the county agent played the role of Chief Manteo each year.

The accomplishments of the adult program have been outstanding. Mrs. Leo Midgette, of Manteo, was elected first county council president. At the time of her death she had 29 years of perfect attendance to Extension club meetings. She was also the only Dare County homemaker to receive the A & P Leadership Award.

Arts and crafts have always been a major area of study by home demonstration and Extension homemakers. In 1964 Mrs. Odessa Wasili represented the home demonstration clubs at the annual Albemarle craftsman's fair in Elizabeth City. Several homemakers have opened gift shops with guidance from the Extension homemakers clubs. Many have taught craft classes to other youth and adults.

One homemaker learned upholstery through an Extension-sponsored workshop and later started her own business.

The Rodanthe, Waves and Wanchese clubs have through the years continually revamped the old school houses which currently serve as community buildings. New curtains have been made, carpet added, and kitchen equipment added as well as paint and labor donated to make these centers more attractive. In 1979 the Wanchese club made over \$3,000 at a bazaar. The money went to improve the community building.

Bicentennial Programs

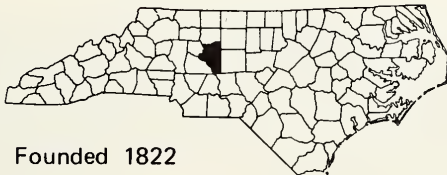
In 1976 Hatteras club homemakers completed their bicentennial project of designing, building, and erecting street signs for their village. Names for the streets were taken from ships lost on the coast between Oregon and Hatteras Inlets. Monitor Trail was chosen for the Main Street.

Another outstanding bicentennial project completed by the Kitty Hawk Extension homemakers was a flag that is a replica of what was for years the only North Carolina flag flown in the Revolutionary War. It was carried in the battle of March 15, 1781.

Homemakers are currently (1980) working on a project to depict the rich heritage of Dare County through a historical tapestry made in needlepoint.

Dare County has come a long way. We have had seven county agents and 14 home agents since the beginning of Extension in Dare County.

Davidson



Women and girls in Davidson County learned early of the tomato and canning clubs and in 1914 persuaded the county board of commissioners to appropriate \$600 which was matched by the state. Miss Eunice Penny (later Mrs. O. F. McCrary) was the first home demonstration agent and the only one to travel by horse and buggy. Her work is discussed in Dr. McKimmon's book *When We're Green We Grow*.

Miss Gertrude Alexander (later Mrs. John W. Goodman) drove her Model T Ford over the county organizing 4-H and home demonstration clubs. 4-H'ers attended their first short course at Elon College and Peace College during this time. Miss Elizabeth Cornelius served as home agent from 1923-1929. Under her guidance new clubs were organized and the leader program began to develop rapidly. In 1929 ill health forced her retirement and Sadie

Henly took over the leadership but the depression had struck and funds were very limited. In July 1932 the commissioners failed to appropriate funds and the county was without an agent for 6 years. Arcadia, Fair Grove, Hedrick's Grove and Reeds clubs kept their clubs together, giving the demonstrations and working constantly with other women to secure another appropriation.

Clubs Reorganized in 1938

On September 18, 1938, Miss Sara Louise Weaver (now Mrs. Chandler Eakes of Sanford) came to the county. With the support of the women and Miss Anamerle Arant, district home demonstration agent, she reorganized old clubs and organized new ones. In a short time 4-H clubs and home demonstration clubs were thriving in 15 areas of the county and membership had increased appreciably. Miss Ellen Jenkins followed her in 1939 but left after one year and was replaced by Mrs. Evangeline Thompson who stayed for four years. These were the war years and clubwomen and girls did a wonderful job of assisting with war bond drives and collecting such things as grease, paper, metal, and used clothing for war refugees. Hours upon hours

went into Red Cross and civil defense work.

While carrying all these extra projects, club work continued at a fast pace and much time and effort went into production and conservation of food and clothing. A popular slogan was "Make It Over, Make It Do, or Do Without." Miss Mary Sue Moser had come to the county in 1945 after serving as assistant home demonstration agent in Forsyth and Miss Lala Blalock (now Mrs. John Burke Leonard of Lexington) joined her as the first assistant home demonstration agent. This pair of enthusiastic young leaders gave much to the program, especially to the 4-H program which was now an important part of the monthly school programs.

Mary Sue Moser Leaves

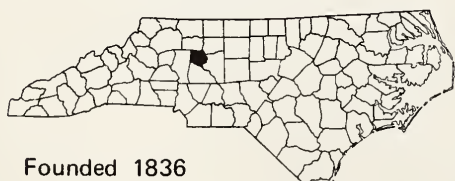
Mary Sue Moser went to the state office as assistant state 4-H leader and Lala Blalock assumed the leadership with Miss Ruth Sockwell (now Mrs. Franklin Teague) as assistant agent. Within a year Ruth married the assistant farm agent and Miss Rosemary Dean replaced her. When Lala Blalock married a Davidson County boy, Mrs. Martha Thompson, formerly home economics agent in Randolph County, came and remained as home economics agent for 19 years. Assistant agents, Dorothy Lawrence (now Mrs. Merwin Bauerly of Iowa), Mrs. Julia Harris (now of Richmond, Virginia), Sallie Whitaker (now Mrs. Robert Ward of Greensboro) and Jane

Lee (now Mrs. William L. Ebert), with Mrs. Thompson carried the leadership through the transitional period. Jane Lee Ebert followed Mrs. Thompson as home economics agent in August, 1970 and has had a number of fine home economics co-workers including Carolyn Auman (Mrs. Larry Auman of North Davidson); Carolyn Davis (Mrs. Phillip Davis of Ward Curry Road, Lexington); and Katherine Hester (Mrs. Earl Hester of Lexington).

The Davidson County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs (later Extension homemakers clubs) was organized on November 30, 1938, with Mrs. R. C. Lanning as president, Mrs. R. Lee Palmer, vice-president, Mrs. Howard Ward, secretary, and Mrs. Reid Smith, treasurer. The council has coordinated the work of the clubs and initiated special projects. By concerted efforts it has been possible to achieve many goals which would have been impossible for individual clubs. Nine delegates have been sent on United Nations tours; five to citizenship conferences, and many others to seminars, national meetings and ACWW meetings. Two Extension homemakers have served as state officers: Mrs. Cornelia Graham (Charles), president in 1954, and Mrs. Shelby Sink (Bruce), treasurer in 1979.

Today 373 women organized into 20 established and four new homemakers clubs participate fully in all phases of community life.

Davie



Founded 1836

Club work in Davie County was somewhat unique in its origin. It was the outgrowth of the vision of a small group of farm men and women in the Jerusalem community.

In September of 1926, while George Evans was farm agent, this group held a meeting with speakers from the Agricultural Extension Service in Raleigh.

The aim of the Jerusalem club, as quoted

from Article II of the constitution and by-laws, was "That the women of our community shall come together; 1. To discuss and demonstrate better methods of homemaking and housekeeping; 2. To discuss food values, food production and conservation; 3. To discuss and set in motion plans for community betterment; 4. To promote sociability and neighborliness."

Club Active Before 1935

The club was active, meeting twice monthly until September of 1935, when the Agricultural State Extension Service sent Miss Florence Mackie to serve as home agent. She brought an organized program of club work and made this club a definite part of the

county, district, state, national, and worldwide demonstration work.

The late Mrs. George Apperson who was a charter member of the Jerusalem club, not only served her club well, but she served as state president, president of the Country Women's Council of the U.S.A. and was vice-president of the Associated Country Women of the World.

She attended the conference of this association in Toronto, Canada, and the eighth triennial conference of the Associated Country Women of the World in Ceylon.

Agent Serves Two Counties

When home demonstration work started in Davie County, the home agent worked part time in Yadkin County. Eight women's clubs were organized in each county during 1935. In the beginning the work seemed very slow. It was not unusual to go to a community and find three women at a club meeting. In one particular case the home agent went to the same community for about 6 months with a membership of no more than 12 members. Since that time this club has grown so large that it is impossible to find enough chairs in

the average home to seat the number in regular attendance. The Fork Club is now working to raise money for a community club house.

Davie County now has 11 home demonstration clubs with an enrollment of 252 members and a county council consisting of 33 members. The council meets only three times during the club year. Bad roads in the county and the club members' dependence on the men in the county to drive cars has been a handicap to the best work of the council.

Every club in the county has paid its Federation dues and contributed to the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund. Seventy-two Davie County women attended the district federation meeting in Salisbury. This was the largest attendance from any visiting county. Mrs. George Apperson, president of the county council, was elected second vice-president of the district federation. The district meeting was a great inspiration to every club member who attended. It gave them a better understanding of what the organization included, and what other counties were doing.

Home demonstration work has been conducted in two new communities this year. One



Life of the Davie County homemaker was hard before the days of wash-and-wear.

of these new communities, a small rural village, started out as a woman's club. This community was confident that they were too well informed to be interested in home demonstration work. However, the home agent was on several occasions invited to the woman's club to talk on various subjects. Since then the women in this same community joined a home demonstration club nearby and were soon followed by the president, secretary and several other members of the woman's club. At present, the woman's club has been practically transformed into a home demonstration club.

Women who are not club members have called at the home agent's office for further information on topics mentioned in news articles or by club members. A non-club member from the Cooleemee community stated that information gained from club leaders, various members, and the literature from the Extension Service, reached far beyond its membership and much further than was realized. A number of club women reported helping with such problems as canning, refinishing

floors, and various clothing problems.

Mrs. George Merrill makes the following report: "I depend on stretching my clothing dollar by remodeling, cleaning and making clothes for my family in order to have extra money for home improvements and other things that I would not be able to have otherwise." Mrs. Merrill says, "I consider saving money on clothing my greatest accomplishment for the year. I went to the store where they were about to discard some hats and bought one for \$.25. I brought the hat home, cleaned and blocked it and the style is as good as new. My aunt gave me a man's suit about twenty years old and I made a suit for myself out of it. I then scratched through my scraps and found a piece of material that matched my hat and from this material I made a blouse to go with the suit. I now have an attractive gray suit, purple hat and blouse that cost me only \$.30. With the money that I have saved in clothing myself and my family, I have painted five rooms in my house. I am planning more home improvements with the money I save on clothing."

Duplin



Home demonstration club work in Duplin County began June 4, 1917, when the county board of commissioners "ordered that the sum of \$250 be and is hereby appropriated for canning demonstration work in Duplin County." From that time, with few interruptions, the work has been successfully carried on.

The first home agent to come to the county was Miss Lucy M. Cobb of Chapel Hill who served during 1917 and 1918. She organized clubs, known as "Tomato clubs." However, when she came to the county, Rockfish home demonstration club was already organized. This club was organized at a quilting party one afternoon in 1914 at the home of Mrs. W. B. Register. These women read about club work in *The Progressive Farmer*. So, you

might say that club work in Duplin County is 56 years old, due to the efforts of the women in Rockfish community.

The Rockfish club celebrated its 50th anniversary at the annual achievement day in 1964. Two charter members participated in this event. One interesting feature was an exhibit of utensils used by homemakers when the club work began. One outstanding accomplishment of the newly organized club in 1914 was prevention of typhoid fever.

First County Council

The first county council in Duplin was organized under the leadership of Miss Ruth V. Eborn in 1924. It was made up of members from seven women's clubs and 12 boys' and girls' clubs.

Mrs. Henry Middleton, deceased, of Warsaw, was one of the five women to graduate from a special school organized by Jane S. McKimmon, first state home agent. She was president of the first graduating class, the class of 1928.

Duplin has had two state presidents. In 1935

Mrs. Hubert Boney was president of the state federation. She received from the Master Farm Homemakers the first diploma ever awarded in North Carolina for her outstanding work in all phases of home demonstration work. Mrs. David Williams, a member of Rockfish club, served as president of the state organization in 1961.

Because of tire and gasoline rationing during World War II, home demonstration work was somewhat hampered. However, emphasis was on victory garden programs, scrap iron drives, price control, and mattress projects. It was during the war years that leaders came to the forefront and took over many meetings. In 1942 there were programs focusing on "thrift and health for better living." By 1944, club leaders were giving four programs a year at the local club meetings. Home demonstration work for Negroes began in the county in 1945.



Mrs. W. W. Cooke and Mrs. Berta Page Ward, Duplin County, receive certificates after completing four summer short courses at State College.



These women were named dress revue winners during a Duplin County home demonstration fashion show.

Improvements Listed

Since 1945, outstanding improvements have been made as a direct result of club work. These improvements included: telephone services for rural families, rural electrification, improved county library facilities, improved homes and surroundings, leadership growth among members, and building of club houses.

Canning food continued to receive emphasis in 1954. Over 1,400 families were assisted with food preservation.

At present there are 25 active clubs with a membership of 410.

Home economics agents serving from 1917 to 1969 were as follows:

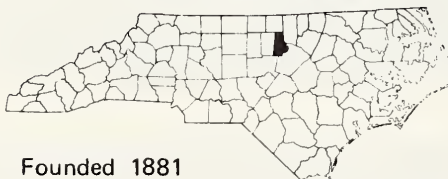
Miss Lucy Cobb, 1917; Miss Helen Thomas, 1919; Miss Ruth Eborn, 1923; Miss Carolyn

Garrison, 1928; Mrs. Pratt Covington McSwain, 1933; Miss Jamye Martin Lee, 1935; Miss Hattie Pearl Mallard, 1938; Miss Marie Dawson, 1941; Miss Norma Lee Tyndall (1st assistant), 1941; Miss Rachel L. Hurst, 1942; Miss Hilda Clontz, 1944; Mary Virginia English, 1944; Mrs. Augusta Waddell, 1945.

Miss Alta L. Lawson, 1947; Miss Alease Massenburg, 1951; Betty Grey Melvin, 1951; Mrs. Francis W. Corbett, 1952; Mrs. Pauline S. Johnson, 1952; Miss Mae Hager, 1953; Mrs. Lois G. Britt, 1956; Mrs. Jean G. Huie, 1956; Mrs. Alice L. Lee, 1956; Miss Beth Slocum, 1962; Miss Alice Suggs, 1963; Miss Joan Walters, 1964; Mrs. Judy Wallace, 1966.

Present staff members are Mrs. Mae H. Spicer and Mrs. Judy H. Wallace.

Durham



Founded 1881

Durham county boasts four homemakers clubs that are more than 50 years old and still going strong.

Organized in 1919, the Bahama club is Durham's oldest club. The club has 33 members, three of whom are charter members: Mrs. Clifton Ball, Mrs. H. L. Umstead, and Mrs. LeRoy Clark who served as state president in 1938. The current president is Miss Vertee Umstead.

Also organized in 1919 but later in the year was the Nelson club of which Mrs. Flora B. King was a charter member. The club has 12 members and the president is Mrs. H. L. Page. Other clubs organized over 50 years ago and still functioning are the White Cross club, organized in 1921, now with 11 members and Mrs. Ethel Daniels as president; and the Bethesda club, organized in 1927, now with 16 members and Mrs. C. E. Atkinson as president.

From 1927 to 1970 16 of the clubs organized are still active.

Total membership is approximately 240.

Since 1970, four new Extension home-

makers clubs have been organized in the county. They are Forestview Heights, Neighborhood Actionettes, Nelson Junior, and Rougemont. The Neighborhood Actionettes Extension homemakers club was the first integrated club in Durham County.

Durham County is proud to have three white Extension homemakers who have been members for 60 or more years and nine black Extension homemakers who have been members for 30 or more years:

30 Years or More

Mrs. Dizelle Scott
Mrs. Evelyn Pettiford
Mrs. Violet Jones
Mrs. Mary Speight
Mrs. Merlene Rogers
Mrs. Geneva Love
Mrs. Mary Holeman
Mrs. Grace Mack
Mrs. Clara Riley

60 Years or More

Mrs. LeRoy Clark (Past State President)
Mrs. E. A. King
Mrs. J. H. Shipp

Awards

Durham County Extension homemakers who have been recipients of the state A & P Leadership Award are as follows: Mrs. Julia Kyler (early 1950's); Mrs. Paul Jeffries (1970); Mrs. Lillie Taylor (1968); Mrs. Burman Dun-

negan (1977); Mrs. Earle Long (1974).

The Judge Jeff Wilson Leadership Award was established 25 years ago to salute a Durham County Extension homemaker who exemplified the all-around leadership development in the local, county, district and state organization levels. This leadership award is based on accumulative development. Since Judge Wilson's death, one of his sons makes the annual award presentation. The award is a gold-inscribed plaque.

In 1975, Durham County Extension homemakers felt the need to develop a new award that would recognize the top homemaker for the year. This service and leadership recognition would be based on one year's work. The first recipient of this award was Mrs. Sue Painter of the Northgate club. The award is an inscribed silver reveré bowl.

Young homemakers in Durham County moved ahead in late 1979 and early 1980. Mrs. JoAnn (Scott) Hughes of the Triangle club was chosen as one of two young homemakers to attend the National Extension Homemakers Association meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi September 11-19, 1980.

Another young homemaker, Mrs. Marie (Rodney) Coe of the Nelson Jr. club, was chosen to attend the North Carolina State Council meeting October, 1980 in Wilmington, N.C.

Youth Work

The Durham County Extension Homemakers Council has through the years provided support, both manpower and financial, to Durham 4-H'ers and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Youth.

In 1976, the Durham Council sponsored a bicentennial field day at the county fair grounds to raise funds for the 4-H development fund. This project and the selling of the Durham Extension homemaker cookbook made it possible for the council to present the 4-H council \$1,000.

In 1979, the Extension homemakers purchased 43 awards for the 4-H achievement program and financially supported the 4-H council officers who attended the State 4-H Club Congress.

Durham County Extension homemakers have also supported the youth in the EFNEP. Since 1971, the Durham Extension homemakers have provided food for day camps, taught music and craft classes, served as volunteers, and donated over \$1,500 to EFNEP camp expenses.

County Programs and Projects

The Durham County Extension homemakers have collectively provided numerous county programs and projects. Some leading ones are as follows:

- As a council fund-raising project, the Durham Extension homemakers assist the American Legion county fair annually with fair entries and exhibits. This annual project has operated over 25 years.

- In 1978 and 1979, the Durham Extension homemakers coordinated mini-crafts workshops for the public. Participants learned to make two or more items. Approximately 350 attended.

- As a fund-raising project in 1980, the Extension council prepared a luncheon for Congressional aides from Washington, D.C. who were on a Congressional aides tobacco tour. The luncheon was held at the Duke Homestead in Durham.

- The Durham Extension homemakers made a cookbook of favorite recipes from club members in 1975. The title of the book is "From the Kitchens of Durham County Extension Homemakers." The initial printing was 2,000 books. In 1976, another 2,000 were printed.

- Durham County Extension homemakers honored the late Rose Elwood Bryan, district agent, by unveiling a portrait and plaque in the Durham Agricultural Extension Building (1976).

Edgecombe



Founded 1741

Edgecombe is a large county consisting of 511 square miles, located in the northeastern section of the Coastal Plains area of North Carolina in the center of the Bright Leaf Tobacco Belt.

Edgecombe, rich in its human and natural resources, was formed in 1732. It is now 249 years of age, but it is still in its infancy from the standpoint of future development. Edgecombe County's population according to the 1980 census is 56,082. The breakdown total is 52.6 percent whites or 29,499 and 47.4 percent Negroes or 26,583.

Edgecombe County is one of the original 14 counties in which agricultural Extension work was begun in North Carolina. The state employed Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon to travel over the state in 1911 to organize Tomato clubs for girls. In the spring of 1911 Mrs. McKimmon came to Edgecombe County to organize Tomato clubs in interested communities. Miss Sallie Eagles of the Crisp community was hired to work with the clubs at that time. She organized seven clubs: Whitakers, Pleasant Hill, Dixie, Powell, Tarboro, Crisp and Speed. Miss Brightsey Savage of Speed followed Miss Eagles as the second agent.

Effie Vines Hired

Miss Effie Vines, a music teacher in Tarboro, was hired for the summer months in 1914 to teach the new and better methods of canning. In 1915 Miss Vines met with the women and girls in the Pleasant Hill school building and because of the expressed interest, an adult club was organized.

From 1917 to 1919 the state did not appropriate any funds for the home agents' salaries and the county board of education budgeted small sums for part-time agents. Because of this and the great interest in the new method of adult education, the women of the county worked together and presented a petition to the Edgecombe County commissioners asking for a full-time paid home agent. As a result of their request, Miss

Winifred Young of Mississippi was hired in 1919. After working one year she married Asby Wiggins, a farmer and business man in the county. She was followed by Miss Elizabeth McCargo who served only one year. Miss Dorothy Dean came to work in the county in 1922. Miss Virginia Watson of Springfield, Missouri came next in 1925 and served until her marriage to W. J. Eason, an outstanding farmer in the county. Miss Ruth Eborn was next on the scene from 1927 to 1930. She married the county agent, "Pop Taylor," and resigned shortly after her marriage. In September 1930, Miss Katherine Millsaps came to Edgecombe as the new agent and served faithfully until October 1937.

On October 15, 1937, Mrs. Eugenia P. Van-Landingham came to Edgecombe County as home demonstration agent. "Mrs. Van," as she was affectionately called, gave leadership to many outstanding educational programs and projects not to mention the many youth and leaders who were inspired, educated and motivated because of her leadership. She served as president of the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association 1954 and 1955.

Assistant Agents Hired

It was during "Mrs. Van's" and Mrs. Parker's tenure of service that Edgecombe began to hire assistant agents to broaden the



An example of the mattress making program in Edgecombe County in the 1940's.

scope and service of the Extension program to the rural families. Miss Athlea Boone was the first assistant agent hired. She married Henry Gray Shelton and has remained an Edgecombe citizen. She was followed by Ella Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Ruby Lee Scott, Agnes Lee, Cleo Jones, Drew Williams, Mary Lou Barrow, Claudia Tutterow, Mrs. Linda Aycock, Sandra Rogers and Mrs. Dorothy Popik.

The early adult organized clubs in Edgecombe County were Whitakers, Woodland, Pleasant Hill, Macclesfield, Crisp, Conetoe, Battleboro, St. Matthews, Tarboro and West Edgecombe which was first known as the Dixie Club.

There are presently (1980) 14 organized Extension homemakers clubs in Edgecombe County with a total of 262 active members. The membership prior to the time when so many women entered the labor market was between 700 and 800 homemakers.

The need for a program in better homemaking was great among black families within Edgecombe County since more than 50 percent of the families were black. The county commissioners were aware of this need and they cooperated with the state and federal Extension agencies in helping to meet this need in 1935 with the appointment of Mrs. Ida Mae Knight as the first black home demonstration agent for Edgecombe County. She gave leadership to homemakers and youth programs for three years.

Mrs. Hazel S. Parker became the second black agent appointed by the Edgecombe commissioners in May 1938 and served the people of the county well through May 31, 1971.

Low Incomes, Poor Diets

Growth in interest and participation in the programs resulted in the appointment of the first black assistant agent in the mid-1940's. Among them was Idell Jones who was later appointed to a state office position, Camilla Edgerton, Nora Jean Avent, Queen Farrish, Alice Chestnut, Mangary Gay and Vivian Harris. Vivian came on special assignment during World War II, serving as food production and conservation assistant. All agents made excellent contributions to better family living for families. The assistant agents worked with 4-H clubs and also assisted with the adult program as part of their training.

Problems of black families were many. Low incomes, poor diets, and inadequate housing were among the areas of greatest need. Lack of land-ownership (79 percent of families were tenants) and low educational levels of the people were also problems considered in programming.

Interest in the program was shown by the large number of homemakers and 4-H members who attended meetings. There were 15 homemakers clubs and 17 4-H clubs active during Mrs. Parker's tenure of service.

During the early years of home demonstration work, in order to meet family needs, program emphasis was on gardening, canning, food preparation, sewing, health and sanitation.

As time passed, the Extension program expanded beyond food production, food conservation, and sanitation, to include clothing, home improvements in modernizing kitchens, making homes more convenient and livable through improved house furnishing projects, yard beautification, home water systems, home laundry projects, refinishing furniture, slip covering, floor care, family life projects and many others.

There were county, district and state federation organizations that held special programs using topics as "Today's Homes Build Tomorrow's World" and "Clean Homes for Health and Happiness."

The West Edgecombe club completed its first club house in 1937 with W.P.A. financial assistance and held its first meeting there in January of that year. Dr. Jane S. McKimmon was guest speaker at a community-wide meeting of both women and men. Pleasant Hill completed its community house in 1946. Other clubs that have enjoyed club houses are Battleboro, Crisp, Dunbar and Hickory View. West Edgecombe club has built a second house, because of termite damage to the first one, which was built of pine logs.

As years passed, the anticipation for change came. Mechanization brought about a surplus of farm labor. The problem of unemployment faced unskilled farmers and their families. Industry was making its way into the county and brought some needed relief. With job training in industry, enrollment in the Technical Institute, along with special reading and writing programs in the schools, a new day dawned for many families. This employ-

ment began to be reflected in higher standards of living, better housing, improved diets, house furnishings, more convenient and comfortable living in many ways. Economic changes brought about a need for redirecting homemaking programs. More homemakers entered the labor market. Emphasis on consumer education, management of resources, time and energy, family relations and housing were programs planned to meet the new needs of homemakers.

Urban Homemakers Assisted

City homemakers began to call for the help of the Extension agents, so now they have

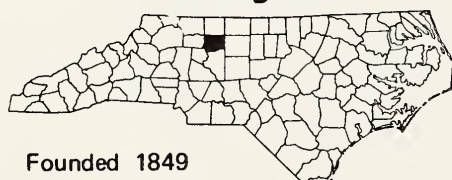
joined rural families in working together for higher standards of living, more convenient and comfortable homes, and more fruitful and satisfying lives for all family members.

Agent responsibilities were changed to meet problems and to help agents prepare for assisting families. Specialization in areas of program responsibility was made.

The black and white Extension homemakers in Edgecombe County merged and reorganized their efforts in the late 1960's.

On November 17, 1970 the homemakers in Edgecombe celebrated their 50th birthday. There were eight 50-year members on hand to celebrate their golden anniversary.

Forsyth



Sixty years old! Birthdays of North Carolina Extension homemakers clubs have whizzed by at such a speed that we hardly noticed. Outstanding and varied programs through the years have kept us young.

In Forsyth County Miss Ida Long led the Tomato club in 1910-11. Beginning in 1917, Miss Rachel Speas became our home demonstration agent. In a letter mailed in 1918 to members of the Bethania agricultural clubs, she stated that a meeting would be held at the school on August 2 at 3:00 and would include the poultry club and canning and home demonstrations. Plans were to be made for a large participation in the Dixie Classic fair.

Miss Speas was succeeded in the following years by such notable agents as Alice McQueen, Elizabeth Tuttle, Lottie Hairston, Carolyn Russell (Register) and many talented assistant agents. Our present team of home economists work in more specialized fields and include Mrs. Jane Davidson, who came to us in 1967 following 15 years of service in Stokes and Ashe counties. Mrs. JoAnne Falls followed one year later after the death of Mrs. Lottie Hairston, the black home economics agent. The newest members of our home economics staff include Martha Hogan—1973,

Nancy Staples—1974, and Susan Lyday—1978.

20 Projects in 1928

The 1928 achievement report noted that project activities that year numbered 20 and included a home garden contest, a yard improvement contest and sanitation. The successful garden contest won first prize in the Piedmont district and the yard improvement contest had 75 enrolled. Mrs. Sim Jones of the Pine Grove club won a prize for the 30 varieties of vegetables grown in her garden that year. A summer camp was held, with a nurse provided for the children.

Also in 1928, Miss Mary Thomas, state nutrition specialist, came to Forsyth County to hold a local leaders training class from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She returned to meet with the class again in March, May and September that year. This same year the home management committee reported 15 persons purchased labor saving equipment as follows: 2 vacuum sweepers, 5 electric sweepers, 1 waterless cooker, 3 electric irons, 1 sink, 1 dish drainer and 1 electric waffle iron. The very fine city market in Winston-Salem charged 25¢ fee to sell products on the curb on Friday and Saturday and 10¢ on other days. Club members sold over \$5,500 worth of home products that year.

Recounting the importance of the annual achievement day on October 25, 1928, one is impressed with the high ranking speakers on the program. The meeting was held at the Sedge Garden school and opened with several



Forsyth Extension Homemaker Mrs. O. C. Hauser shows other county women that the sewing machine really isn't that hard to operate.

patriotic numbers by the school orchestra. Miss Alice McQueen, Forsyth agent, presented Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon, state agent, Miss Martha Creighton, district agent, Miss Mary Thomas, state nutrition specialist, and Mrs. W. T. Whitsell, president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. Following the program on garden fruits and winter gardening by R. W. Pou, Forsyth farm agent, a picnic lunch was served in the school cafeteria. After lunch Mrs. McKimmon gave an address on "Child Training." Achievements were recognized and many prizes given in a number of categories.

Elizabeth Tuttle Cited

The 25th anniversary in 1953 was a banner year and a large observance was held at the First Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Mrs. Elizabeth Tuttle, agent, was cited by the Department of Agriculture for the second time for superior service. During her long

tenure the women of Forsyth County became liberated from the confines of the kitchen and became vital community leaders and assisted in the promotion of 4-H work among the youth.

First Black Agent

The first black agent in Forsyth was Mrs. Lottie Hairston who began work in 1945 and served the black community with untiring devotion for 23 years. She was greatly respected in return.

Mrs. Elizabeth Tuttle died suddenly in 1960 and Mrs. Carolyn Russell was appointed agent. She and Mrs. Hairston combined the white and black organizations, expanding to 44 clubs and 1,200 members. A unified plan of work was initiated; workshops and tours were organized and regular radio and television programs were presented locally by committee leaders in addition to regularly scheduled media programs by the agents. This winning

formula is still in effect today with few changes.

Mrs. Jane B. Davidson arrived in 1967 to assume the agent's position in Forsyth County when Carolyn Russell moved on to become a district agent. Other changes were on the horizon as consumer education became a field of great importance. It was spotlighted in 1970 when a program of great magnitude was executed by Mrs. Davidson and the Forsyth homemakers when they held "Consumerama" at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. The 8-day event featured scores of exhibits and demonstrations by professionals in all fields of consumerism. Lectures by nationally known speakers were given daily. Thousands of people attended this first-of-a-kind event. Its impact was so great that it was repeated in part in 1972 as "Consumerama II" by the N. C. Northwest Development Association with the assistance of Mrs. Davidson.

Observe 50th Anniversary

The 50th anniversary was observed in 1970 when we celebrated "50 Years of Doing Our Thing." Mrs. Ella Stewart, a charter member of the first club organized, was present and was still a very active member. There were 17 members in Forsyth who had been members for 50 years and were still contributing greatly to Extension programs.

The extraordinary Extension work in Forsyth County has continued non-stop. The council contributed \$3,000 towards the purchase of a 4-H bus a few years ago; money all earned by club members in council supported endeavors. We have fully supported all state projects and have sent many state committee chairmen to Raleigh. Mrs. H. L. Nunn, Sr. has lead various state projects for most of her 60 odd years of "being involved." We have provided excellent officers and leadership for our district.

In 1976 America's bicentennial was observed in a big way when Forsyth homemakers staged a 2-day celebration at the Dixie Classic fairgrounds. Dressed in costumes of pioneer days, club members demonstrated methods of baking bread, making kraut, turning ice cream, churning butter, pressing apple cider, curing hams and everything in between. They explained root cellars, herb gardens, sulfured apples and demonstrated tying tobacco, quilting, soap making, weaving, how to cane a

chair, and make other crafts they had revived for the occasion.

Work With Handicapped

Jane Davidson's work with the handicapped in Forsyth is unexcelled. She has given innumerable hours to helping the handicapped to become happier, more self-sufficient individuals. Significant is the fact that Mrs. Davidson learned sign language expertly and organized a homemakers club for the deaf. This club is one of her greatest satisfactions as she sees the response in the members' lives. Many other people have learned sign language from Mrs. Davidson.

Mrs. Davidson was responsible for assembling a clothing kit for the handicapped that was used state-wide. The program was developed to demonstrate to doctors and professionals working with handicapped persons how dressing such individuals could be made easier. The clothing was made by Forsyth homemakers and modeled by them. A commentary was written to describe each clothing article.

Mrs. Davidson attended the President's White House Conference for the Handicapped in Washington, D. C., accompanying Bill Kiser, a severely handicapped man. Mr. Kiser was awarded the President's Trophy and named "Handicapped American of the Year" by President Gerald Ford. Mrs. Davidson, County Extension Chairman Forrest Harmon and Forsyth homemakers had adapted built-in kitchen and bath aides and made draperies for an apartment for Mr. Kiser to live in and have a home of his own for the first time in his life. Mrs. Davidson was recognized nationally for her work with the handicapped when she was awarded the Florence Hall Award. She had been previously honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

Homemakers Today

Forsyth Extension homemakers clubs today are made up of enterprising women who use their knowledge and skills to further community development, serve in school leadership, maintain volunteer posts, lead in church teaching and organizations, and keep the home fires burning. In addition, many of the ladies have outside careers and a large number work part time. Indeed, many homemakers today are not only the bread-maker, they are also the bread winner.

From the days of swatting the rugs with beaters and using blocks of ice for cooling food we may have come full cycle as we again plant the vegetable patch. The energy crunch and soaring prices are making many of us dust off our skills accumulated and passed on through 60 years of home Extension training. Our hobbies have been turned into cash as our craft projects find willing buyers for a hand-made product.

At times it has required greased skids to



County commissioners, meeting on October 3, 1910, appropriated \$300 for farm demonstration work in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the benefit of Franklin County farmers. On January 1, 1911, J. T. Harris, a local outstanding farmer, was named farm demonstrator of Franklin County. Although canning clubs had been organized, the county had to wait several years for a professional person to direct work among homeworkers.

Pauline Smith Named Agent

Miss Pauline Smith was elected home agent in 1915 on a part-time basis. In February 1916, the county commissioners voted to increase Miss Smith's salary to \$500 per year provided the state would match this salary and make her full-time agent. In January 1920, Miss Smith's salary was increased to \$900 per year by the county commissioners. During the years 1916-1920, women's clubs were organized in the county. Canning was stressed in both women's clubs and in girls' clubs. Also during this period, made-over clothing was emphasized along with other topics on homemaking selected by Miss Smith and the women.

Following Miss Pauline Smith, Miss Bruce from Mars Hill was named home agent and served for a short period. In August 1922, the county commissioners named Miss Bordeaux

take advantage of all the classes and in-depth seminars that we were anxious to be a part of. We have printed cookbooks, had a Forsyth County chorus, held charm schools, studied wills and deeds, learned French cooking, promoted dental care, provided transportation for clinic visits, filled to overflowing the stockings for Operation Santa Claus for mental patients and touched the human soul in immeasurable ways.

as home agent. She served until 1924, followed by Miss Cathleen Wilson, who was home agent for a short time.

In September 1924, Miss Daisy Caldwell was appointed home agent. Miss Caldwell served until 1930 except for a few months during the summer of 1929, at which time Miss Cleta P. Shillings acted as agent. Food was stressed during this period with emphasis on winter gardens. Miss Caldwell also introduced the pressure cooker to many families in the county.

In 1931, Miss Anna Benson Priest was elected home agent and served until 1935. Miss Priest stressed yard beautification and the family food supply. For a 6-month period in 1934, there was not a home agent in the county but Mrs. Maurice Clifton served as county supervisor in an emergency relief canning program.

Clothing Work Stressed

In 1935, Miss Sara Louise Weaver was appointed home agent and served until September 1938. During Miss Weaver's tenure clothing and home furnishings were stressed. Also during Miss Weaver's stay, the laboratory in the agricultural building was furnished.

In September 1938, Miss Lillie Mae Braxton was appointed home agent. Miss Braxton continued the program of home furnishings. By 1939, there were 18 home demonstration clubs in the county with an enrollment of 343 members.

Miss Braxton served as home agent until 1947 when she resigned and was followed by Mrs. Essa D. Shaw. Mrs. Margaret Baldwin also served as home agent in 1947. Mrs. Lillie Mae Braxton Dean again joined the Extension

staff in 1954 and served until 1963.

Franklin County has always been proud of its Extension home economics program. Much work has been done and progress made through home demonstration clubs, now called homemakers clubs. Special emphasis has been placed on foods and nutrition, housing, clothing and work with limited income families.

Mrs. Frances Fuller joined the Franklin County Extension staff in 1957 as assistant home demonstration agent. She was appointed Extension agent in 1963 upon retirement of Mrs. Lillie Mae Dean and still holds this position.

Mrs. Joyce Hunter, Mrs. Bernice Harris, and Mrs. Polly Knott are the other female members of the Extension staff in Franklin County at the present time. There are 22 homemaker clubs in the county with 236 members.

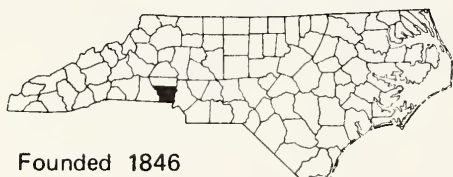
Over the years one of the outstanding ac-

complishments of the Extension homemakers program has been yard and home beautification. Houses have been made more convenient and better furnished as well as more attractive. The mattress program through the years has also done much to aid the homemakers from a health as well as house furnishings standpoint.

The Extension homemakers also contributed much toward forming the cancer detection center in the county.

Homemakers have helped the youth through 4-H clubs. The members participate in local, county, district, state and national events and in so doing help themselves as well as fellow club members. Through community development people have learned to cooperate in community activities and have developed a pride in their community. Electricity and telephone service throughout the county have contributed much to better housing—running water, bathrooms, and electrical appliances.

Gaston



For more than 60 years, the Extension homemakers of Gaston County have met together as an organized group to work for a better home, community, and county.

Home demonstration work in Gaston County began in 1914 with the organization of three communities, Sunnyside, Mt. Olivet, and Bessemer City, in canning club work. Twenty-three girls from these three sections were taught how to plant, cultivate and can tomatoes by Mrs. M. P. Shetley, under Dr. Jane S. McKimmon's directorship. Each girl had 1/10 of an acre allotted to her from the farm land. Mrs. Shetley was employed for 2 months. The next year Mrs. Shetley was employed for 3 months. Thus, club work started as the "Tomato clubs." Seven clubs were organized.

26 Girls in Canning Clubs

The first state annual report, under the new

Cooperative Extension Service, for the year ending June 30, 1915 showed that there were 26 girls in the canning clubs in Gaston County that year. These girls canned 4,660 containers of food. They sold or used at home food worth \$172.76. Total value of their produce was \$686, and their cost was \$93—giving them a profit of \$593.

The first full-time home demonstration agent, Mrs. Nell Pickens, was hired in 1923. This was the beginning of home demonstration clubs being organized with a wide perspective. Club members became interested in the organizational functions of club work.

For some years canning was the major project in home demonstration work. The women became proficient in canning fruits and vegetables. When the "depression" hit the nation, conservation of food was again in the limelight. Miss Annie C. Broughton, home agent, had the county women canning almost everything. A live-at-home program was getting more and more emphasis. The canning of meat was a major project. Pressure canners were demonstrated in every section of the county.

In 1937, the county commissioners helped each local club (18 of them) to buy a pressure canner. The canners were accessible to all club

women. In 1939, 60 club women reported having their own pressure canners. One club woman who had joined a club in 1939 asked: "Doesn't the home agent go out and help each club woman with her canning?" Before the agent could speak, a club woman spoke up and said, "How could she do that for 325 club women scattered over this county? If you have any canning problems, some club member from your own neighborhood will be glad to help you. The home agent arranges a leaders' school each year to keep us up-to-date on new canning points." This is the way canning was handled in Gaston County in 1939.

Homemakers Center

Miss Lucile Tatum, who was agent from 1936 to 1963, strengthened the club work greatly by obtaining a building, known as the Homemakers Center, from county funds approved by the county commissioners. During the years the Homemakers Center has had seven different locations. In 1974, the final move was made into a new building especially designed for the activities of Extension homemakers. The Lucile Tatum Extension Homemakers Center is constantly busy with Extension homemakers club meetings, workshops, and training sessions. The county employs a director to schedule activities and

assist Extension homemakers with workshops.

Gaston County club members have an opportunity to participate in the Extension homemakers honor club. Outstanding club members may apply for membership. Membership requirements are successful leadership, volunteerism, and participation in all program of work areas. The purpose of the honor club is to further Extension work.

Extension homemakers in Gaston County have been recognized for their involvement in citizenship. Crime prevention has been a concern. As the result of this interest, "Concerned Citizens for Justice" (CCJ) was organized in Gaston County. This organization is the daughter of the Gaston County Extension homemakers clubs. Since its birth, CCJ has spread to 35 states. The program has won the National Volunteer Award, the N. C. Rural Safety Council Award, the National Extension Homemakers' Award for Outstanding County Project and the National Citizenship Award for N. C. Extension Homemakers.

First 'Meals on Wheels'

Community service and nutrition have been basic concerns of Gaston County Extension homemakers. Extension homemakers were instrumental in establishing the first "Meals On



The Lucile Tatum Homemakers Center, named for a former Extension home economist, is the pride of Gaston County homemakers.

Wheels" program in Gaston County. Hot meals were prepared and delivered 5 days each week to elderly citizens by Extension homemaker volunteers. After a successful pilot program conducted by Extension homemakers, the program received funding through the county office on aging. It is still in operation today.

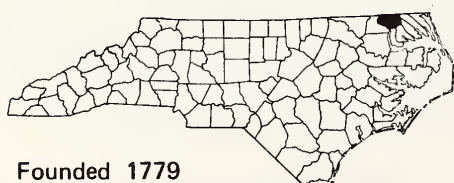
Many students from Gaston County have benefited from the Extension Homemakers Memorial Fund. Students are loaned money to continue their education. In addition to the loan fund, several of the local clubs provide a scholarship annually.

Other services to the community include

cooperation with other established agencies in the county. The Mental Health Association, March of Dimes, Red Cross, and the Cancer Society have benefited from the many volunteer hours of Extension homemakers.

The 805 members and 37 clubs in Gaston County are a vital part of the Extension Service program in the county. Extension homemakers serve as volunteers for 4-H clubs and Expanded Food and Nutrition Educational Program (EFNEP) day camps. Many hours have been volunteered to teach young people skills. Extension homemakers have been a major source of financial support for special programs and 4-H camperships.

Gates



Founded 1779

Gates County was one of the 14 pilot counties Dr. Jane S. McKimmon persuaded to have "Tomato clubs." Miss Augusta Harrell of Sunbury was hired for 2 months during the gardening and canning season to work with girls in the Reynoldson, Sunbury and Eure communities. However, it was not until 1935 that Miss Gladys Hamrick, hired by the state as a part-time home demonstration agent, organized the first home demonstration clubs.

Miss Hamrick organized the Middle Swamp Club at the home of Miss Essie Whedbee on October 17, 1935; the Gates Club at Mrs. G. D. Gatling's on October 18; the Carter Club at Mrs. Rosa Hofler's on October 21; and the Hobbsville Club at Mrs. W. L. Riddick's on October 23. The homemakers of Carter had organized a community club about 10 years earlier. They had followed the home demonstration club format and had used lessons from the Chowan County and the state home economics Extension staffs. Mrs. Mary Ward (now 100 years old) and Mrs. C. H. Carter, Sr., were instrumental in keeping this club going until (and after) home demonstration work began in the county.

Before the end of 1935, Miss Hamrick had also organized clubs in Sunbury, Eure, Sandy

Cross, Zion, and Corapeake communities. Miss Julia McIver, state clothing specialist, came and taught a lesson on "Fall and Winter Fashions and Remodeling" in November 1935. In 1936, two more clubs were organized in Gatesville and Roduco. A county council was organized. Mrs. W. R. Woodall was president; Mrs. G. D. Gatling, vice president; Mrs. R. R. Rich, secretary.

The county commissioners decided to continue the home demonstration program on a permanent, full-time basis and Mrs. Maria Woodard was hired as agent. She organized clubs in Trotville and Savage communities in 1936.

During Mrs. Woodard's 4-year tenure, the clubs developed patterns still followed to some extent. Club leaders were appointed in various areas of homemaking to receive special training and take it back to clubs. Club lessons were on such topics as canning, clothing, and home improvements. Community projects such as county "clean-up" drives were undertaken.

Miss Ona Patterson became county home demonstration agent in 1940 and her 6 years in the county were perhaps the most active for the home demonstration clubs as they became "soldiers on the home front" during World War II. In addition to traditional home demonstration lessons, workshops, and activities, they collected scrap aluminum, iron, kitchen fats, and newspapers. They sewed and knitted for the Red Cross, planted victory gardens, sold war bonds, and manned aircraft observation towers.

Library Established

The club reading program and a small collection of books became the basis for a county library established in 1942. It was news when the Herman Carters and Woodrow Whites put in bathrooms and the W. L. Askews and C. T. Whites a pump and sink in their kitchens.

Over 100 miles of electric lines were erected in the county. Mrs. T. C. Lawrence served as council president, followed by Mrs. G. C. Worrell. Home nursing, furniture upholstering, soybean cookery, and meat canning were emphasized. Pimiento cheese sandwiches for fall achievement day were made from homemade cheese; however, no amount of promotion seemed to result in adequate numbers of milk cows in Gates County. Though many meetings were cancelled during the gasoline rationing of World War II, Dr. McKimmon was impressed at the 1942 federation program when 14 Hazelton members came in one pick-up truck and nine from Zion came in another pick-up truck.

In 1944, Miss Elizabeth Andrews was hired as Negro wartime food preservation assistant. Even though the lessons were all related to foods, Miss Andrews organized 10 home demonstration clubs to reach Negro homemakers with information on gardens, pressure canning, pantry and storage space, home drying of fruits and vegetables, home egg production, and kitchen cabinets.

In 1944, a Negro county home demonstration council was organized with Mrs. Mabel Hinton, president; Mrs. H. L. Mitchell, vice president; Mrs. Amaza Gatling, secretary; and Mrs. Annie Parker, treasurer.

Mrs. Battle Hired in 1948

Mrs. Pennie P. Battle was hired as Negro home demonstration agent in 1948. She continued as one of the county home demonstration agents until her retirement in 1974. The clubs had lessons in all areas of family living, held county achievement days, participated in district federation, state council, and the state conference of farmers and homemakers at A and T College in Greensboro. In 1949, they awarded a scholarship to Andrew Griffin, a T. S. Cooper graduate to attend Shaw University in Raleigh.

Gates County Negro club members will

never forget the 1960's district federation they hosted at Buckland School. Instead of the 600 they were expecting for lunch, 900 showed up!

In 1966, the home demonstration clubs became Extension homemakers clubs. In 1967, the black and white councils merged, with Mrs. Walter Ward as president and Mrs. Henry Lassiter as vice president. There has been one Extension homemakers council and one countywide program since that time with both races furnishing leadership and support.

Following Mrs. Battle's retirement in 1974, three agents were hired: Miss Margaret Woods, Miss Norma Bizzell and Mrs. Cheryl LeMay Lloyd.

Miss Patterson transferred to Wilson County in 1946. Miss Bertha Mallard replaced her as Gates County home demonstration agent.

In 1952, Gates became part of the 25th district federation and remained until it became part of the northeastern district in the reorganization in 1966. Mrs. C. H. Carter, Sr. served as state corresponding secretary from 1946-51. Mrs. W. L. Askew served as state corresponding secretary in 1960 and Mrs. R. W. Humphries was state coordinating treasurer in 1966 and loan funds chairman in 1967.

Miss Mallard married William Brown and resigned in 1951.

Miss Mary Gaskins was home demonstration agent from 1951-1953, followed by Miss Lydia Griffin from 1953 until her retirement in 1966. In 1967, Miss Gaskins, now Mrs. G. P. Cowper, again became one of the county Extension home economics agents. The 1950's and 1960's were busy years for Gates home demonstration clubs. They organized a county chorus in 1951 under the direction of the Rev. O. S. Edmonds with Mrs. J. L. Lassiter as county pianist. Each club selected a foreign country to study in 1953 and "letter friends" were promoted. Some are still corresponding.

'Conserved Products' Group

Gates County Extension homemakers were active in forming the Albemarle Area Conserved Products Association. Mrs. Frank Barnes served as president and secretary. Mrs. J. W. Kee served as secretary, Mrs. Haywood Martin as treasurer.

The Buckland Extension homemakers, using money from Index subscription sales,

decided to build a community building to serve their community. Under the leadership of Mrs. T. H. Briscoe they've had a monthly money-raising event since the early 1960's. Today they have an attractive, modern building used as a nutrition site for senior citizens and for many civic and family functions. Mrs. Helen Dildy has been building fund treasurer. Mrs. Battle, home agent, assisted with all plans and efforts.

Gates County Extension homemakers who have won the A & P Leadership Award are Mrs. R. W. Humphries, Mrs. C. H. Carter, Sr., Mrs. Oscar Jones, Mrs. W. L. Askew, Mrs. Walter Ward, and Mrs. T. H. Briscoe.

Gates Extension homemakers have continued sponsoring the annual Cancer Fund drive with an almost perfect record of exceeding its goal. Club members were leaders in organizing and maintaining the Gates County unit of the American Cancer Society.

Since 1971, they have sponsored the visits of the Red Cross bloodmobile. Under the current chairman, Mrs. David Taylor, the county has consistently met its quota, with help from the high school health careers club.

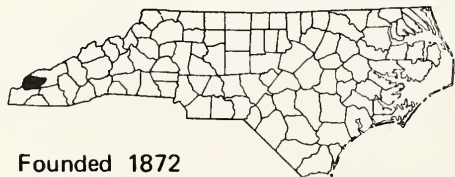
In 1976, Gates Extension clubs joined with the arts council in sponsoring a bicentennial celebration. The clubs sponsored a countywide church service with a message by Dr. Odgar Berg. In 1979, they cooperated with Mrs. Louise Lyon in preparing a needlepoint tapestry to commemorate Gates County's 200th birthday. Fifty-four churches and civic organizations provided representative squares. The completed tapestry was hung in the new county courthouse.

Extension homemakers actively supported the drive for a Gates County medical center which opened September 1979. They helped to raise the initial \$3,000 and also helped collect the local \$40,000 share.

Gates Extension homemakers were actively involved in three district-wide events of the 1970's: a housing fair, a sewing festival, and a foods festival. Mrs. Hercules Byrum and Mrs. Thomas Parker demonstrated in the sewing festival. Mrs. Walter Ward was district president for the foods festival.

There are 12 organized Extension homemakers clubs in Gates County with 171 members in 1980.

Graham



Founded 1872

Home demonstration clubs began in Graham County around 1930 as merely a social gathering of women in rural communities within the county. Women worked hard in those days, often at the side of their men doing laborious chores. A "ladies day out" as they called it, allowed these women to put on their "Sunday best" and gather at a neighbor's home.

A quotation from a newspaper article, dated in 1940, from Mrs. Bill Cherry, president of the county council, summed up those early days:

"When I first joined the home demonstration club many years ago, I was a new bride with just about everything yet to learn. Through club programs I have learned about

food selection—how much and what to buy, attractive and different ways to serve meals and suggestions for serving appetizing meals while keeping food prices down."

They had no TV or other forms of entertainment—only reading. Mrs. Cherry went on to say that "I have always liked to read; I especially enjoy the book reports which our club women occasionally give. In this way, we are given a preview of interesting books which we cannot always find time to read ourselves."

Way to Make New Friends

She summed it up by saying: "I believe that my work in the home demonstration club has helped me to overcome part of my shyness when in a large group of people. Now the district federation meeting is a time to look forward to, when I can make new friends as well as greet old ones, instead of just staying right with the group I already know. New acquaintances mean new experiences and new experiences are what makes life so interesting." (Note: The federation district

meetings she spoke of involved Clay, Cherokee and Graham Counties.)

Following the depression and war years and on into the 1950's, Mrs. H. F. Johnson, speaker at the seventh observance of National Home Demonstration Week (April 27-May 3, 1952) summed up that portion of our history:

"It is a thrilling and a richly rewarding experience to be a home demonstration club member. Life must be learned from life, where we are and what we have to use or to give. Great potential strength has come by the untiring effort of our leaders in cooperation with women of outstanding foresight, ability and increased participation in activities on a local, state and national level."

They found many practical demonstrations all over the county. Lawns were green and well kept, shrubs were being added to screen unattractive places. Every club member's aim was to make her home more comfortable, beautiful and inspiring. Electric lights began to shine where lights had not shown, the electric stove cooks, the electric washer washes, and many more appliances waited to function for service at the turning of a switch. Many dollars were saved by remodeling hats and dresses and covering that old couch or chair.

Home agents came and went: Nellie Jo Car-

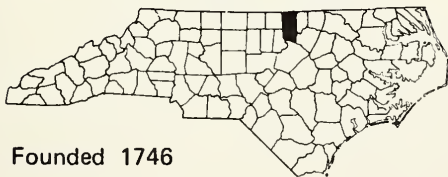
ter, Freida Dean Morgan, Virginia Mitchell, and Sandra Roberts. Our present agent is Laurie Roberts Stevens. The programs are basically the same. The structure of the organization has changed somewhat. We no longer call ourselves home demonstration clubs. We are Extension homemakers!

For many years, peace has dominated our thinking. World conditions would not let us forget it. We are still thinking of peace. We can do much if we can develop our motto in each home—character, courage, culture and citizenship, not forgetting our personal goal of "large in thought, in word, in deed."

Club members have gained a lot over the past 50 years and had a good time while doing it—singing, playing, and learning and fellowshiping together. There is a warm happiness in homes today where cooperation, understanding, friendship, faith, service, and love abide.

The true value of Extension homemakers work can not be told. How can one measure the pleasure of working, the influence of example, the wisdom of economy, the improvement of talents, the joy of service, the worth of character, the value of a healthy child or a happy home? The real worth will be reflected in the next 50 years.

Granville



Founded 1746

Through the years, Extension homemakers have been the cornerstone of numerous progressive awakenings in Granville County. The Agricultural Extension Service's initial imprint in home economics was realized through the dedicated endeavors of Mrs. Virginia Wilson who was home agent from 1936 to 1942. Following her was Mrs. Eunice Williams who arrived in 1942.

Through demonstrations in the homes of county residents, these ladies laid the basic foundation which later brought homemakers together as an organized group. In 1944, Mrs. Dorothy Wilkinson joined the dedicated staff

of Extension agents as an assistant to Mrs. Williams. Arriving around that time was Mrs. Mary I. Parham who served as home demonstration agent in the black community.

Although there were separate office buildings and the community was not integrated at that time, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Parham worked to organize homemakers clubs. The need to have homemakers clubs was expressed through channels of concerned and interested people. Finally, organized clubs emerged, with memberships eventually exceeding 700 women representing 30 clubs.

All Homemakers Invited

Letters were written to every homemaker in the community inviting her to join a club. The replies were graciously received. We believe the first club was organized in 1942. Among the first clubs organized was Young Zion Greenwood with Mrs. Mattie Pettiford serving

as president and Mrs. Naomi B. Wilson as secretary.

The following communities have been active in Granville County Extension homemakers work over the years: Salem, Dickerson, Antioch, Belltown, Gray Rock, Fairport Tally Ho, Creedmoor, Rock Spring, Lewis, Oak Grove, New Grassy Creek, Satterwhite, Blue Wing, Stovall, New Mount Vernon, Mountain Creek, Berea, Oak Hill, Hester, Wilton, Walnut Grove, Stem, Enon, Grassy Creek, Providence, Buchanan Jonathan Creek, Young Zion Greenwood and Oxford.

Successful Projects

Homemakers are proud of these major projects:

SPRING FEDERATION—This was a county-wide meeting. Included packed lunch, speakers, exhibits, tours and entertainment.

FALL ACHIEVEMENT DAY—Clubs and members recognized for outstanding accomplishments.

OTHER ACTIVITIES—Dress Revues, Fashion Shows

During World War II homemakers collected fat (grease), which was used to make ammunition, and tin cans.

In later years contributions have included:

- Heart fund campaign.
- Cancer fund—promoted awareness of self-breast examination. Approximately 25 Granville County women were found to have breast cancer but condition was remedied by surgery.
- Six-year cancer study.
- Community projects:
 - “mail box fix-up” campaigns.
 - community clean-up.
 - curb market (Many homemakers used this money to send their children to college.)
 - telephone survey in northern Granville. (Approximately 300 people received telephone service as a result.) Included Mountain Creek, Oak Hill and Berea areas.

- Women-of-the-Year Contest—first known winner was Mrs. Betty L. Oakley, Oak Grove club; second known winner was Mrs. Mary Williams, Lewis club.
- Special contributions to needy families and families who lost their home in fire.
- \$1,000 donation to local rescue squad.
- Donation of equipment to County Health Department.

In 38 years, numerous changes have been made and the program has expanded. In 1975, Ms. Doris J. Byers became a member of the Extension family. After Mrs. Wilkinson's retirement in 1977, Ms. Byers was joined by Mrs. Mary B. Shurling in 1978.

Granville County now has 13 homemakers clubs with a membership of 192. Many of the older members are deceased or are unable to attend monthly meetings because of declining health. The average age is around 65; however, in 1977, a new club was organized, the Granville Extension homemakers club, with many young homemakers as members.

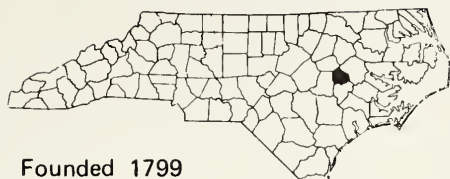
Recent county council presidents include: Mrs. Edythe Day, Mrs. Zethro Downey, Mrs. Pauline Renn, Mrs. Isabelle Davis, Mrs. Mary Rose Knott.

Granville Extension homemakers clubs are Dove Road, Fairport, Gray Rock, Granville, Lewis, New Grassy Creek, Oxford, Penny Hill, Stem Road, Stovall, Walnut Grove, Wilton, Young Zion Greenwood.

Some recent activities, events and contributions of Granville homemakers include: cancer drive, hypertension clinics, heart fund, lap reading project, food for stamps, annual achievement day—held each fall, county fashion show, baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas, Annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar—held each fall, yard-of-the-month contest, and fund-raising suppers.

A new concept arrived within the past 2 years—area meetings. These efforts have been an attempt to reach additional audiences and provide educational opportunities to individuals at all levels. Meetings are held every three months at designated places in northern Granville, southern Granville, and Oxford.

Greene



Founded 1799

Since 1914 rural women in North Carolina have had the privilege of the adult education program known as *home demonstration work*. The women's work in Greene County began about May 1, 1917, or perhaps a little earlier. Miss Rosa Hooten came to the county as emergency demonstration agent to work with women and girls. She served the county for about a year and was followed by Miss Joyce Henly in May 1918.

According to county records, Mrs. Margaret Price Moore served as home agent from July 1, 1918 to October 1, 1918. She was followed by Miss Grace Strickland from January 1, 1919 to May 4, 1919 when Miss Strickland was succeeded by Miss Edna Stroup who served until October 15 of that year. Miss Laura E. Williams succeeded Miss Stroup on October 16, 1919 and was home agent until September 2, 1920.

During this war period (World War I) the farm and home agents rendered services to the sick in addition to conducting their demonstration work with farm people.

Lillie Mae Aycock

Miss Lillie Mae Aycock (Mrs. R. W. Isley) served as home agent from May 13, 1921 to January 1, 1924. Mrs. Isley's work with the farm women and girls of the county was considered outstanding by farm people who still remember her contributions of that period.

Mrs. Isley returned and served as emergency agent during the summer months of 1933 and supervised the canning program sponsored by the federal, state and local relief agencies. Miss Mildred E. Taylor (Mrs. Arthur Carraway) did similar work during the summer months of 1934.

Years Without Agent

From 1934 until the employment of Miss Virginia Lancaster, who worked from 1943 to December 1944, the county was without a home agent. Six clubs were organized during the first 6 months of 1943 with a membership

of 89. Victory was the first club to be organized in August 1943. Hookerton and Contentnea followed in September. In October, Walstonburg was organized followed by Rainbow and Spring Branch in November. Mrs. Nell Butler followed Miss Lancaster as home agent.

The first council meeting was held in Greene County in 1944 under the leadership of Mrs. Lemuel Dawson as president. Her slate of officers consisted of Mrs. D. D. Fields, vice president and Mrs. Howard Hunt, secretary.

The first achievement day ever held in Greene County was in November 1944, the first full year of an organized home demonstration club. Miss Lancaster's last meeting as local home agent was in April 1945. A miniature wedding was given by the children of the Walstonburg club in her home. Mrs. Sikes Butler took over as home demonstration agent in May 1945.

No records of the intervening years were kept. Mrs. Butler was succeeded by Margaret McGowan who became Mrs. J. C. Jones in August 1951 and left Extension work.

The overall structure was changed and Miss Elizabeth Womble (later Mrs. Jones), the assistant home economics agent, took over as home economics agent. Mrs. Jones remained in the county until 1974 when she accepted an area position with the EFNEP program of the Extension service.

First Black Agent

Very few records were kept of black Extension homemakers work in the early years. The first black agent was Miss Camellia Edgerton in 1953. Twelve clubs were organized and demonstrations were given on clothing, gardening, furniture refinishing, hat making, nutrition, and upholstery.

In 1966 the name of the organization was changed from North Carolina home demonstration clubs to Extension homemakers council and included both black and white clubs. During this transition period a full board of directors was organized. Mrs. P. L. Barrow was chairman in 1967-1968 of integrated Extension homemakers clubs in Greene County.

In 1962 Mrs. D. D. Fields attended the National Home Demonstration Council meeting in August at the University of Maine. In 1965 Mrs. Fields attended the National Citizenship Conference in Washington, DC.

In 1967 Mrs. F. L. Walston attended the national Extension homemakers meeting in South Dakota. In 1978 she went to a similar meeting in Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. Elizabeth Jones was succeeded as home agent in December 1974 by Miss Willa Sarvis. Miss Sarvis became Mrs. George Bailey in 1978 and is still working with Exten-

sion homemakers in Greene County (1980).

The Agricultural Extension Office in Snow Hill moved into a new building in 1976. The Extension homemakers made a bicentennial quilt as their county project for 1976 and donated it to hang in the County Office Complex.

Guilford



Founded 1771

In the spring of 1911, Miss Lucille Kennett (now Mrs. E. G. Bagley) who was teaching in the Pleasant Garden school, was asked to organize a Tomato club for girls in the community. It was something new and she was not experienced in work of this type. However, she was interested in girls and had had practical experience in canning, so she consented to undertake it. The first club was organized in March 1911, at Pleasant Garden, followed by clubs at McLeansville and Bessemer. A little later, Mrs. J. E. Coltrane, a teacher at Jamestown, organized a club in that community. Miss Kennett resigned and was succeeded by Miss Annie Lee Rankin. This work was carried on during the summer months.

In October 1915, Miss Grace E. Schaffer was appointed as the first full-time home agent, and served one year. She was succeeded by Miss Ola Stephenson on September 1, 1916, serving until September 1922.

During this time the desire for information on homemaking subjects had gradually broadened from growing and canning tomatoes for home use and for sale, to a study of all homemaking lines with all members of the family involved.

In September 1922, Miss Addie Houston succeeded Miss Ola Stephenson as home agent followed by Mrs. A. W. Wells. Miss Rachel Stone was appointed assistant agent in August 1937.

29 Members in 1911

The annual report for 1911-12 reported 29

club members. In 1922, when Miss Houston took charge there were nine organized clubs in the county. One of these was composed of girls only, and one of 75 percent girls and 25 percent women. The other clubs had a few girls in each. The clubs now number 20 for women with a membership of 400 and 19 for 4-H club girls with a membership of 500.

Club work has developed from growing tomatoes to growing a year-round garden and from canning a few products to canning an abundant supply of fruits, vegetables, meats, sweets, and relishes. Homemakers have sought over the years to: prepare foods to conserve the food value; serve foods to tempt the eye as well as the appetite; make the home comfortable, convenient and attractive; provide all home conveniences possible; lighten the work load of the family; make the home grounds more attractive; and plan the wardrobe to dress the family appropriately for all occasions.

Curb Market Grows

The curb market has grown from a few sellers once each week to an average of 150 on Saturdays during the summer. Some homemakers sell as much as \$200 worth of produce per month. The money received has provided higher education for some young people, paid doctors' bills, bought hearing aids, sent children to camp, paid for music lessons, and raised the general standard of living for people in the various communities.

A county home demonstration chorus was organized about a year ago. It meets once each month an hour before the council meeting and is directed by a young lawyer, son of one of the club members.

Homemakers have had a big hand in the growth of 4-H club work among girls. Club meetings are now held twice monthly, with the first meeting a joint session with the boys'



Mrs. L. F. Pritchett (left), Guilford County, helped pay for the family home by selling chicken at the curb market for many years.



Mrs. O. D. Apple, Guilford County, proudly displays her "remodeled" laundry equipment.

clubs. The second meeting in the month is devoted to project study. Girls choose one or two of the homemaker subjects and study them throughout the year. In addition to the regular club meetings, a 4-H county council composed of officers of the various clubs meets once monthly.

Reflections of Long Ago

Guilford County homemakers boast some club members who have long records of perfect attendance. Mrs. Cletus Ballinger has not missed a meeting in 44 years and Mrs. Flora Love has had perfect attendance for 30 years. Both are members of the Guilford College



A remodeled school house makes a delightful Guilford County home for Mrs. C. L. Osburne.

club. Since they first joined the Guilford College club things have come a long way.

Mrs. Ballinger relates the story that many years ago, the Guilford College club had a lesson in bread baking. As a result of this lesson, every member was to bake bread and enter into a contest for judging. One member cried to Mrs. Ballinger that she just could not bake bread, would Mrs. Ballinger bake two loaves for each of them to enter which Mrs. Ballinger did. At the end of the contest the lady for whom Mrs. Ballinger had baked the bread was awarded a blue ribbon. The other loaf under Mrs. Ballinger's name did not win even an honorable mention, nothing. Needless to say, the member receiving the plaudits was a bit embarrassed while Mrs. Ballinger sat back with no recognition.

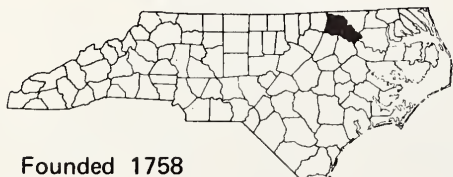
Mrs. Ballinger also tells us that years ago when Guilford College club met in the Guilford Grange Hall for their meetings, there were no heating facilities in the building. For the winter meeting while she was president of the club, she can remember bringing wood from home and building fires prior to their meetings.

Looking back over the years, a member of the Frieden's club feels the building of their community house has meant more to her community than anything else. She writes as follows:

"In 1939, our 4-H club won \$100 for being the best club in North Carolina. Most of our 4-H members and our Extension homemakers belong to Frieden's Church. So we asked our church council for permission to build a house on some church land. We were granted this, and a few folks gave timber to build. This was cut and sawed by 4-H boys. One member loaned a plane, so the pine planks were made ready for the sides. Oak was used for the foundation.

"The women served suppers to make money for nails, roofing, cement, and equipment. Days were set for the building. Many husbands turned out to help. We hired a chimney built. All the other labor was for *love*. The church gave us water and now pays insurance. The community house is rented for family reunions, showers and children's parties, which pays for light bills and oil for a furnace that was donated.

Halifax



Founded 1758

A look into the history of home demonstration work in Halifax County reveals that it emerged out of the needs expressed by people. It had its inception at a community fair held in the fall of 1915 at Crowell's Cross Roads. The first home demonstration agent was Miss Susie Pope, who was appointed in April of 1916.

In 1916, Miss Pope organized three girls' clubs through the schools and the girls learned to grow and can beans and tomatoes. The year ended in November with an achievement day and a community fair at a one-room school with field crops displayed outside and canning, baking, and needlework inside.

Miss Pope found it necessary to resign her position in April 1917 and Mrs. Cornelia

Morris, one of the original North Carolina home demonstration agents, completed the year's work. Mrs. Morris later became North Carolina's first food conservation specialist.

Mrs. Morris served during the World War I years, when canning in the back yard was popular. The wash pot with a big fire, the pumping and carrying of water and the cooking of beans for 2 days were the conservation methods of the era.

During the depression years, home demonstration workers were called in to help in the planning of food programs for the whole village in the Rosemary Cotton Mill Center. Gardens were planted and worked, and canneries centers opened and operated.

In the fall of 1918, Mrs. Morris returned to Raleigh as the first state specialist in food conservation. Miss Ethel Mae Leatherwood replaced Mrs. Morris as home demonstration agent for Halifax County in October 1918. In the midst of the great flu epidemic, soup kitchens were organized and volunteer workers distributed the soup from house to house

to the ill and needy. This was the beginning of club women extending their service to the community and to people other than their immediate families.

Canning and breadmaking received major emphasis up until this time. Miss Leatherwood began work with the women in sewing and methods of cooking. She also had the first course in crafts taught in the county on basketmaking using reed and raffia and the long-leaf pine needles. Camping was also introduced by Miss Leatherwood in 1920 when she took 50 girls for a week to Panaces Springs, located in Halifax County. By 1921, eight communities in the county had home demonstration clubs. Programs emphasized work in poultry, gardening, canning, sewing and cooking.

Miss Leatherwood resigned to become Mrs. Egbert Barnhill and was replaced in 1922 by Miss Bernice Allen. It was at this time that the women organized the first county council with Mrs. N. L. Stedman as president. Mrs. Stedman later became president of the state federation. During this year work began on "Milk for Health" and "School Lunch Projects." It was through home demonstration work that hot cocoa and soup were prepared on school-room stoves to be served to the children.

Kitchen Improvement Stressed

Between 1923-24, the women in club work emphasized "kitchen improvement campaigns." Sinks were installed and water was made available in many kitchens throughout Halifax County. Floors were repaired, kitchens painted, and flour and sugar containers were made.

Hazel Erwin came to Halifax County as home agent in 1925. She served 17 years. By 1927 each of the 11 townships in the county had a club. The leader program began to take shape and women were trained at leader schools. County federation meetings with educational programs became big all-day events. Contests became a part of the county's program and fairs were big occasions. The women during the 1930's took great interest in the short course held in Raleigh. Many women received certificates for completing four courses during the short course.

Growing out of the need of the depression, the curb market idea was born in 1931 to sup-

plement incomes of families. Many farms were saved, and many boys and girls were educated as a result of this project. It was also during these years that the county library program was started by home demonstration workers. This was the forerunner of today's bookmobile program in Halifax County. The local clubs served as book centers for the community and the home agent served as the county librarian. Books were transferred from club to club every 3 months during the year.

Because of the expanding demands for the services of the home demonstration department, the staff was expanded to include an assistant home agent. The first one was Ona Patterson, now Ona Humphrey. She retired in Wilson County in 1978 as home economics Extension agent.

The year of 1942 ushered in a complete new staff for the home demonstration office. In September 1942, Miss Florence Cox and Mrs. Estelle E. White became agents for the county. The foundation laid by the earlier agents paved the way for a period of dynamic expansion. By 1947 there were 24 home demonstration clubs throughout the county and 19 girls' 4-H clubs. Participation in the two groups approached the 1,200 mark.

Work With Black Families

Ruth Whitworth was brought to the county in October 1941, to work with the Negro families in helping them raise their standard of living. The first black home demonstration club in Halifax County was organized October 30, 1941, in the Goldmine community, near Littleton. This group had been one of the six canning clubs that were organized in 1936. The other canning clubs were Hobgood, Harrison, Draper, Sam's Head and Tabron.

Home demonstration work was a prime supporter during the World War II years of programs relevant to the needs brought on by the war itself. Red Cross, overseas mail and packages, gardens, conservation, knitting and many other projects were sponsored by club women. When the years passed, a boom period of remodeling homes, building new homes, and improving the homes of Halifax County was implemented.

In 1959, Halifax County women's leadership was recognized again with the election of Mrs. V. I. Hockaday as state president of the N. C. Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.



Members of the Hardrawee Extension Homemakers Club, Halifax County, work on bicentennial quilt.

This appointment made two state presidents coming from Halifax County since the organization of home demonstration club work on a state basis.

Councils Merge

The 1960's brought about many changes in home demonstration club work. The name home demonstration was changed to Extension homemakers. In Halifax County there had been two adult county councils, a white and a black. In the late 1960's these two councils merged. They formed a board of directors which served as an advisory board of the integrated group. Then in July of 1972 the first integrated Extension homemakers county council was organized according to the state Extension Homemakers Association guidelines. Mrs. Estelle A. Smith was the president.

During these years there were also changes in the home economics Extension staff. Mrs. Estelle E. White left her position in Halifax County in June 1971 to accept a University faculty position in adult education. Mrs. Emma F. Smith joined the Halifax County staff in October 1962 and worked until July 1963. She returned to work in August of 1964 and worked until her retirement on June 30, 1979.

Miss Ruth Whitworth retired with 30 years of dedicated service on June 1, 1971. Miss Patricia Russell joined the Halifax County staff in this position in November of 1971 and is presently on the staff with program responsibilities in 4-H, human development, and aging. Mrs. Rose Massey joined the Halifax County staff in July of 1974 and Mrs. Sandra Pittman was employed in August of 1979.

During the early 1970's emphasis was placed on leaders within each club providing some of the educational programs at their club meetings. Leader training was conducted by the home economics Extension agents.

In 1975, the home economics agent with assigned subject matter training began to meet with both black and white clubs to present the educational program. Up until this time the black agent provided programs for the black clubs and the white agents attended only white clubs.

During the early and mid-1970's, clubs concentrated on family resource management, human development, personal appearance, and awareness and promotion of cultural arts. Updated techniques in food preservation and furniture refinishing workshops were very well attended.

Extension homemakers were very involved in the bicentennial celebration in Halifax

County. They began the 18th century craft house during the Halifax Week celebration which has become an annual event in which craftsmen demonstrate and sell their handiwork. Two quilts were made and the proceeds from them given to the Halifax Historical Association for the drama, "First for Freedom," and to the county 4-H development fund. Homemakers also volunteered their time to construct costumes for the drama.

On October 1, 1978 the Halifax County Extension homemakers were ready to embark on the planned restructure of their organization as had been directed by the state association and the Extension administration. Many club women were involved in prior months under the direction of Mrs. Emma F. Smith in studying and developing this restructure process. The plan developed consisted of clubs meeting three times a year in areas with an

educational program provided by the home agents. The Extension agent would meet with individual clubs only once in the year and club leaders trained by agents would give all other club programs. Halifax County was divided into three large areas. Meeting centers were designated in Enfield, Scotland Neck, and Roanoke Rapids. These area programs were scheduled in the afternoon and at night in each location. Among topics of these area meetings were energy conservation, inflation survival, plant propagation, and the proposed county water system.

Emphasis was placed in 1978 and 1979 on new membership recruitment through the area-meeting concept. In 1980 there are 17 organized Extension homemaker clubs in Halifax County with a county membership of 245.

Harnett



Founded 1855

The first Extension homemakers club to be organized in Harnett County was the Mt. Pisgah club of Broadway. The Mt. Pisgah home demonstration club (as it was called then) was organized in April, 1919 under the leadership of Miss Rachel Martin, home demonstration agent. At the first meeting, Miss Martin prepared salmon croquettes on a wood stove. She also demonstrated how to make salad dressing and used the salad dressing to make an apple salad. Two of the 10 charter members are still living and are part of the Mt. Pisgah club.

The Kipling home demonstration club was organized in 1923. The Angier club was organized in the early 1930's with 12 charter members. Miss Naomi Carr was the Extension agent and worked in Harnett County for several years. The name of the club was changed in 1968 to Ambassador Extension homemakers club. One of the projects this club sponsored was to help restore the

William Grove one-room school house. The building was moved to Angier and placed on a permanent site in Yesteryear Park. The Cokesbury club was organized in 1935, also under the leadership of Naomi Carr. This club met in the Buckhorn school. The Cokesbury club was disbanded during the 1970's. The Mamers club was organized around the year 1937. Miss Carr was the agent. Miss Alice O'Quinn was a charter member and is still active in Extension work through her club.

Cape Fear Organized

The Cape Fear club was organized in 1936. There were nine charter members. In June of 1953, the members built a club house on property donated by Mrs. J. H. Morgan.

The Friendly club was organized sometime in 1938. Miss Buie Long rode around the country-side with the agent, Naomi Carr, and encouraged many homemakers to band together to form the club. In 1954 the club built a community center. The land for the building was donated by Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Johnson. There are three charter members still with this club. They are Miss Buie Long, Mrs. Mary Johnson and Mrs. Laura Long.

Miss Sercy was the home agent in 1938 and helped organize the Duncan home demonstration club. In 1938, the Anderson Creek club

was organized in the Spring Lake area of the county. Mrs. Eva McArten, a charter member, headed the building committee. All kinds of fund-raising projects were held. The most unique one was club members going to friends and asking for several old hens to be sold. In 1949, Mrs. E. E. Clayton gave us land on highway 210 for the building. In April, 1951 the building was completed. This building was later sold and the money was put into a club savings account. In the 1950's the Bethel club was formed but soon dissolved and the members regrouped as the Anderson Creek club. In October, 1978 a check for \$1,000 (from the sale of the Community Building) was presented to the Anderson Creek Ruritan club to help renovate their building for our monthly meetings and workshops. A lot of military families are in our area and in our club. We have members from different parts of the world and have received a lot of useful help and ideas from them. One charter member still attends and is the monthly devotional leader. In 1939 the Turlington club was organized.

Membership Soars

On May 19, 1941 ten ladies met with Miss Maude Sercy and organized the Coats Community club. In 1959 the name was changed to Goodwill Extension homemakers club. There were 16 charter members. By February, 1951, the membership had increased until the homes could no longer accommodate the members. By July 10, 1951 the club held its first meeting in its newly constructed building. In 1960 a kitchen and bathroom were added to the building. During the years, the club has participated in many projects and activities. They have sponsored a senior citizens club and a 4-H club in the Coats community. The oldest charter member is 88 years old and has had a perfect attendance for 24 years. Due to ill health, Mrs. E. L. Parrish is not as active in her club work, but still attends all meetings. Extension work has meant a great deal to her.

The Olivia club was also organized in 1941. The club has disbanded, although some of its members are going to the Mt. Pisgah club meetings.

In 1943, the Oakdale club of Rt. 1, Benson, and Ephesus club were organized under the leadership of Miss Lela Huntley.

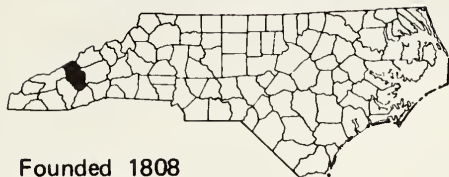
On April 1, 1944 with the hiring of the first black home demonstration agent, Mrs. I. P. Hinnant, seven home demonstration clubs were organized. The first black club to be organized in Harnett County was the Seminole club organized on May 17, 1944 with five charter members. Eight days later the Ridgeway club was organized. Both of these clubs have disbanded. On June 15, 1944, the Norrington club was organized with 35 charter members. Four of these charter members are still active in Extension work. Nine days later the Angier club was organized with four charter members. The fifth club to be organized under the leadership of Ida Hinnant was the Shawtown club, which later changed its name to the Progressive Extension homemakers club. Johnsonville club was organized in 1944 with six charter members (disbanded). Rocksprings was organized in 1945 (disbanded).

Miss Thelma Hinson, Mrs. Margaret Randall and Ruby Parker were the home demonstration agents working during the 1940's through 1969.

In 1955 the Dunn Extension club was organized. This club disbanded also. Erwin club was organized in 1962 and is still active in Extension work. In the latter part of 1966, Betsy Ross interested the ladies of the Summerville community in organizing a home demonstration club. The home agent, Ruby Parker, met with the group and a club was organized with eight charter members.

Bettie Giles, home agent, organized the Duke and Can-Do clubs during the 1970's. Jennifer Walker, home agent, organized the Churchland club in May of 1980. This club has 12 charter members.

Haywood



Founded 1808

Home demonstration club work began in Haywood County in the early 1930's with Miss Mary Margaret Smith serving as the first agent. Under her leadership a very strong homemakers program was established and progress was noted in the renovation of homes, building new homes, kitchen improvements, installation of bathrooms, and food conservation.

In 1949, Miss Smith became an "agent-at-large" and later moved to Person County where she continued to work until her retirement. In 1949, Miss Mary Cornwell became home demonstration agent, coming from Cherokee County. She remained in this position until December, 1976.

During these years Miss Cornwell was assisted by Mrs. Joe Palmer (Elise Delozier), Miss Jean Childers, Miss Nancy Hinton, Mrs. Joe Turner (Pat Hicks), Miss Janet Brigman,

and Mrs. Gwilli Brendell. Club membership averaged 500-600 in 25-27 clubs.

Margie Frady Scholarship

Many outstanding county, district and state officers served the homemakers organization. Mrs. George Frady (Margie) served as state president in 1963. The Margie Frady Scholarship was established by Haywood County homemakers following her untimely death in 1967.

The first western district craft workshop was held in 1950 at Schaub 4-H Camp with Miss Cornwell as chairman.

In 1975 the homemakers clubs launched a \$50,000 campaign to raise funds to build a log cabin to be a permanent home for authentic heritage handicrafts of North Carolina and the Appalachian region. In 1978 as a result of dinners, bake sales, cook book sales, flea markets, bazaars and individual contributions, the money was raised.

Christmas Ideas Exhibit

The Christmas Ideas Exhibit viewed by several thousand people each year was one of the most outstanding activities conducted by homemakers clubs for years. Each club dis-



Volunteer work is an important part of Extension Homemakers activities. Haywood County homemakers help with a Bloodmobile drive.

played Christmas ideas and crafts and hundreds of gifts were collected for Broughton Hospital.

Following Miss Cornwell's retirement in February 1977, Mrs. Geri Spear became the new home agent. She came from Gaston County where she was a high school home economics teacher. The new Extension homemaker program was launched under her supervision and she initiated the area meeting concept for homemakers clubs.

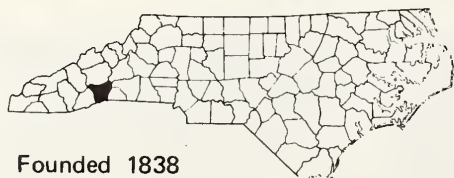
Mrs. Spear resigned in 1978 and Mrs. Gwilli Brendell, Haywood County 4-H agent for 15 years, succeeded her. Mrs. Barbara Wood became 4-H agent. Under Mrs. Brendell's leadership emphasis has been on developing a strong leader training program and offering a wide scope of special-interest activities. A home economics Extension craft club was initiated by Mrs. Brendell. A craft per month is offered to the 158 members of the club.

There are 29 Extension homemakers clubs reaching 458 women.



Haywood County Homemaker instructs at 1961 Western District Craft Workshop held at Schaub 4-H Camp.

Henderson



Home demonstration work began in Henderson County in 1918 when Miss Annie Mae Baker served as home agent along with farm agent Frank Fleming. About 1923, Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, state home agent, came to this county to encourage groups of homemakers to become organized. They were encouraged to grow tomatoes, to can these for home use, and to sell to others to add to the family income. A meeting of homemakers was held at the home of Gladys McKinna in the Etowah community where Dr. McKimmon encouraged homemakers to consider ways of making their kitchens more functional and their homes more attractive. As part of this special project, Mrs. McKinna's husband made a small tea cart for her. She displayed it at achievement day in 1978.

In 1924, Rachel Everette served as home agent for a year. She was one of the suppor-

ters of the formation of a curb market which still exists today on Church Street. After a lapse of about a year, Ada Walker came to serve the county in 1929.

During the depression, there was no record of a home agent in the county, and we know that at times there were no farm agents, depending on the economy and the opinions of the county commissioners as to the agency's value.

During these years, life was not easy for homemakers, especially that day set aside for the family wash. There was a fire to build and keep burning in order to heat water and to boil the clothes. Using the scrub board and ironing with a flat iron were other necessary methods. In addition to running the house, the homemaker was usually called on to help with the work in the fields.

During the dreary days of the depression (around 1933), families were encouraged to continue growing and canning food from the garden. Farm agents were employed at times. They encouraged crop rotation, soil improvement, and crop selection.

A home agent was reinstated in August

1941, when Ruth Dicks began organizing home demonstration clubs. She resigned to do government work during the war and was followed by Ida Lee Pense who served until 1943. Anne Benson Priest was agent until 1949, when Helen Higdon took over the job and worked for a short time.

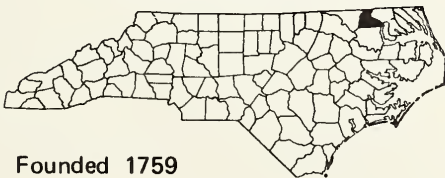
In 1941, during the early years of the organization, Mrs. Walter Pike served as leader of a group in the Tracy Grove community. She also served as county council president and presented demonstrations to various clubs when there was no home agent available. In 1946, she served as president of district III, which included 19 counties. She represented this area at the World Conference of Country Women in Amsterdam in 1947.

County council presidents during these years were Mrs. Gillespie, 1952; Mrs. S. M. Garren, 1954; Mrs. Henry Key, 1956; Mrs. Locke Saltz, 1958; Mrs. Mack Rogers; Mrs. Jean Ledbetter, 1963; Miss Blanche Searcy, 1965; Mrs. Lewis Grant, 1968; Mrs. Vernon Hight; Mrs. Everette Israel; Mrs. Goldia Blythe, 1978; and Mrs. George Gaynor, 1980.

Until 1953, one home agent served the county; however, during that year homemakers approached the county commissioners about employing an assistant also. Kathleen Hodges of Edneyville became an agent here in 1955. Other agents have been Nell Garrison, 1957-64; Justine Rozier, 1957; Peggy Davis, Peggy Hall, Sarah Saffels, Bobby Caldwell, Arleen C. Jones, Helen Neill, Wanda Winecoff, and Cindy Trexler. The present staff consists of Jean Lancaster, Joyce Armstrong, and Cynthia Higgins.

Presently, there are 18 clubs with over 350 members. During this year (1980) a club for working homemakers has been organized. These members meet at lunch time and gather primarily for program information. The establishment of a college loan fund for a high school senior has taken place this year. At this time, it is thought that this will be offered to a girl interested in majoring in home economics. A special effort is underway to double the membership of Extension homemakers in the county and state during the next 2 years.

Hertford



Extension work began in Hertford County in 1909, but it was not until 1911 that the women and girls were included in the work. The first "Girls Tomato club" was organized in 1912 by Mrs. H. F. Brinson, appointed collaborator. As far as we can discover the object of her work was to be the organization of the "Girls Tomato club." These clubs were to grow 1/10th acre garden of tomatoes and can the products for home use and for sale if there was a surplus. Thus the family was taught the importance of gardens, the value of vegetables in the diet, especially for winter diets, the processes of successful canning, and the satisfaction of earning money for personal use.

Mrs. Brinson organized her first Tomato club of 11 girls in the spring of 1912. Their gar-

den plots were laid off and the plants started. One of the original members who completed tomato projects is still living. She is Miss Ruth Thomas of Cofield.

Records show that home demonstration club work began in April 1917. But it was not until 1918, with the conditions brought about by World War I, that the first emergency home demonstration agent was appointed. She was Miss Fannie Brooks who only worked a short time but organized several home demonstration clubs, two of which are still in existence. They are Menola and Christian Harbor. April 2, 1918 marks the date of the first organized home demonstration club, which was Menola. A busy two months were spent by this energetic lady, Miss Brooks.

Miss Swindell Appointed

Immediately after the first emergency home demonstration agent was appointed, another came to the county. She was Miss Myrtle Swindell who was appointed to the position as emergency agent on May 27, 1918, and remained as home demonstration agent until her death on October 8, 1928. Miss Swin-



Myrtle Swindell, home agent from 1918-1928, holds a foods demonstration for Hertford County 4-H girls.

dell took up the conservation work left off by Miss Brooks and strengthened the organizations. By the end of 1918 she reported 300 women and girls active in eight clubs. Some 10,412 cans of food were put up by members.

The first trip the home agent made to Christian Harbor was by steamer from Winton. She was met and carried to a home to spend the night. The next day she held the meeting and stayed another night. The third day, she was carried back to the wharf where she took the steamer back to Winton.

The first home agents held meetings at local community school houses and under shade trees. They spent days in neighborhoods getting acquainted with families and administering to the sick.

In her close association with the farm family the home agent had grown into a consultant homemaker for the county, and her horse and buggy was a familiar sight as she drove up and down the state highways and on dusty and muddy roads of the county. Sometimes she was errand girl for women who were embarking on a dressmaking venture and were waiting at the side of the road as she passed to receive the thread or the pattern she had purchased for them in town. Roads were not good, horse and buggy travel was slow, and help of this kind was much ap-

preciated by people living in the country. Sometimes the agent was the emergency nurse but more often she was counselor and friend when financial conditions were hard and family adjustments not easy to make.

Roads in North Carolina meant hard travel until the widespread "good roads program" began in 1920. A trip to the edge of the county meant driving the better part of the day and spending the night in some hospitable home so the agent would be ready to go elsewhere in the area the next day.

Cars Unpredictable

A home agent generally met with kindness from fellow travelers, and in the early days of automobiles everyone knew in how many different ways these unpredictable machines could give trouble. On a winter day, Myrtle Swindell attempted to drive to a club meeting some distance from the county seat. The car mired on a muddy road about 10 miles from her destination, sinking deeper and deeper as she tried to go forward. No help was available until she saw a man in a convict's suit walking toward her. "Can I help you, Miss Swindell?" he asked. "Why, how did you know me?" she said. "Well, ma'am, I know you are the same lady who talked to us down at the prison camp last year, and one of your food lists is tacked

up there in our kitchen right now. Since your talk, we think our superintendent has given us better things to eat, and all of us appreciate it." Frightened? Yes, but a grateful woman saw that convict get her machine out of the mire, and she took his advice when he said, "This road ain't no place for a lady driver, and I wouldn't try it again until the spring weather sets in. I hope you get home all right."

In 1919 Miss Swindell added to her list of accomplishments the establishment of hot school lunches, circulating libraries, the opening of a public park in Winton, and the holding of the first county conference of delegates from all clubs to discuss club needs and plans. This conference later developed into the county council. This year also marked the first 4-H club encampment held at Chowan College with 200 boys and girls from Northampton, Bertie and Hertford Counties. Biscuit making seemed to be featured in the girls' work and fairs in the women's work.

In 1920 the first real county council was es-

tablished. There were six girls' clubs with an enrollment of 129, and eight women's clubs with an enrollment of 160. The work had its ups and downs through the next few years. 1921 marked the first rally day or what we would later call a county federation day. 1923 shows a total of 14 women's clubs with an enrollment of 500 and seven girls clubs with 121 enrolled. The girls held their own through the next few years, but the women's clubs dropped back to nine in 1926 with an enrollment of 157 members. These were times of prosperity and high prices and fewer women were interested in homemaking as interpreted by the beginning home demonstration agents.

Millinery for women seemed to revitalize the organization. In 1920, Miss Swindell remarked that over 300 hats ranging in cost from 10 cents to several dollars were made at club meetings that year. No one wished to leave the fascinating millinery lessons conducted in several of the counties in the northeast district during the early 1920's.



Results of a Hertford County refinishing workshop held in 1961.

Miss Swindell died in October 1928 and was replaced by Miss Annie C. Broughton, who worked until November 1930. Mrs. Grace Pope Brown took up the duties on November 15, 1930, and worked until the late fall of 1934 when she resigned because of ill health. On January 1, 1935 Miss Florence Cox began work.

Two honors came to Hertford County in 1938. First, the county received an award of merit from the National Better Homes Association for the quality of work done in the Better Homes Campaign. Second, Hertford County placed first at the N. C. State Fair with an educational booth.

Work with Negroes began in 1937 in Hertford County under the direction of W. C. Davenport, county agent. He organized six canning clubs for adults, those being Pleasant Plains, Ahoskie, Winton, Mt. Sinai, Vaughan-town and Sign Board. The first Negro home agent was Mrs. Omnie Smith Charlton who came in 1939. She organized the canning clubs into home demonstration clubs. The Ahoskie club is still in existence in 1980.

In late May of the war-dominated year of 1943, Dr. Jane S. McKimmon visited four northeastern district counties. First was Pasquotank, then Gates, Hertford and Bertie. Dr. McKimmon spoke on "Family Morale in These Troublous Times."

The first assistant home economics agent was Mildred Aycock, emergency war food preservation assistant in 1944. Miss Clara York came as the second black agent in 1944. She married and became Mrs. Clara Y. Motley and continued working until 1951 when she left on maternity leave. Mrs. Motley returned to Hertford County as home agent in 1958 and worked until her retirement in 1976.

Leadership Development

The most significant program has been leadership development. Leadership was strong in the home and extended to the community, county, state and even to the world. Women have been responsible for beginning the efforts toward getting electricity,

telephones, water systems, etc., in many areas. As the old saying goes, "If you want something done, get a club woman to do it." Leadership development in all programs and activities from local, to county, to state has been an outstanding result of the Extension program. There have been four past state presidents from Hertford County. They were: Mrs. Ardelle G. Boone (1946-48); Mrs. Irene Yeates (1950-52); Mrs. Vera Slade (1962-64) and Mrs. R. G. Whitley (1976).

Our A & P leadership winners have been: 1958—Mrs. R. G. Whitley, Como club; 1971—Mrs. T. J. Benthall, Woodrow club; and 1978—Mrs. W. B. Norvelle, Christian Harbor club.

Two living white charter members are: Mrs. C. W. Askew of Myrtle Swindell club of Ahoskie and Mrs. J. T. Matthews of Woodrow club in Murfreesboro. They have been members for 60 years. Three charter black members are: Mrs. Sarah Reynolds, Boulevard club of Ahoskie, Mrs. Mabel Boomer, Boulevard club of Ahoskie, and Mrs. Irene Yeates of Ahoskie club in Ahoskie. They have been members since black clubs were formed in 1940.

A past president, Mrs. J. R. Moore, held 27 years of perfect attendance at the time of her death in 1967. Mrs. Louise Moore, a present treasurer of Meherrin club, holds a 26-year perfect attendance record.

The present home economics agents are: Mrs. Jane McGee Taylor, who has been employed in Hertford County since 1960 after working in Martin County for one year, and Miss Deborah J. Howard who joined the staff in August 1979.

Many mementos have been saved over the years, but one very unique one is on the blackboard in the kitchen of the Christian Harbor club building. Written on the board are the following words by Miss Myrtle Swindell: 1. Energy Giving or Fuel Food; 2. Body Building Food; 3. Regulating Food; 4. Growth and Stimulating.

Over the years the club has protected the blackboard and requested that no one remove the words written by Miss Swindell.

Hoke



Founded 1911

Extension club work in Hoke County has been organized since 1935. The first council meeting was held at the courthouse on October 5, 1936. At this time the organization of Hoke County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was completed with the election of these officers: Mrs. Lucy Smith, president; Mrs. W. H. Haire, vice-president; and Mrs. Earl Tolar, secretary-treasurer. Miss Naomi Carr (now Mrs. L. A. Parker) was agent.

By the time of the council meeting on September 24, 1937, there were seven organized clubs—Antioch, Ashemont, Blue Springs, Little River, Mildouson, Pine Forest, and Rockfish. Miss Lorna Langley had come to the county.

1938 was a banner year. Mrs. R. T. Gaitley served as president and Mrs. George Monroe as secretary. The first annual achievement day was held on May 13 at Hoke High School

with Mrs. Estelle T. Smith, state director, as the speaker. Mrs. George Monroe of the Rockfish club won first prize in the dress revue. Wayside was added to the roster of clubs. Each club contributed \$2 to the council treasury. Field day and stunt night were sponsored. In December Miss Langley resigned.

Highlights of 1939 Listed

Miss Josephine Hall assumed the office of agent in February 1939. The highlights of the year were the organization of the Raedeen club, hosting the district meeting at Goldston's Beach, White Lake, on June 1. In the early 1940's the clubs were active in the mattress project. The Pine Forest club was asked to exhibit their fair booth at the Cotton Council Meeting in Augusta, Georgia on January 27, 1941.

By 1950 a hospital bed and wheel chair had been purchased. Material from Red Cross Headquarters was received and made into 75 skirts for girls.

Trips to Manteo—"Lost Colony," Washington, D. C., New York World's Fair, Williamsburg, Asheville, Charleston, New Bern, Betsy-Jeff Penn Plantation, N. C. State Fair, Charlotte—Southern Living Show,



Nita Orr, specialist in frozen foods, conducts a meeting in Hoke County.

Winston-Salem, Raleigh—Capitol, Legislature, Art Museum—have been enjoyed.

Since their beginning homemakers clubs have centered around home life, and members have been busy making their home life more satisfying and their neighborhoods and communities better places to live. The ladies helped by canning vegetables from their gardens for school lunchrooms, by sponsoring and organizing 4-H and senior citizens' clubs, giving educational scholarships to young students, collecting glasses and cases for "Eyes for the Needy," buying bonds, and providing furnishings for club houses and dishes for the civic center. They have contributed to girls' haven, the rescue squad, needy families, and other community projects.

One member, Mrs. Grace Andrews, has served on the State Library Board. Another member and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McGougan, were presented one of six Master Farm Awards in North Carolina in 1957.

District presidents from Hoke County included: Mrs. John Baker, 1952; Mrs. T. C. Sinclair, 1956; Mrs. R. E. Neeley, 1964; and Mrs. Bertha Hendrix, 1980.

All the clubs worked for electric lines in 1939-40, telephone lines in 1958, the health center, and a new library building along with

a bookmobile to carry the library to its citizens. Representatives have attended conferences on world affairs, citizenship, United Nations, and participated in the "University Days on Wheels."

After 30 years of faithful service Miss Hall retired in 1969. The county honored her with a reception. Mrs. Ellen S. Willis was named home agent and is serving at this date (July 1980).

In 1979 the ladies conducted a workshop to help young men at the Sandhills Youth Center make their own Christmas decorations.

Other agents who have served the county are as follows:

Home economics agents: Miss Naomi Carr (now Mrs. L. A. Parker), 1935-1936; Miss Lorna Langley, 1936-1939; and Miss Josephine Hall, 1939-1969.

Assistant agents: Miss Audrey Beaman (Mrs. Audrey B. Bishop—deceased), 1956-1958; Mrs. Mary Lou Roman (now Mrs. Alvis Denning), 1958-1963; Miss Loretta Gay (now Mrs. Loretta Wenk), 1964-1965; Mrs. Ellen S. Willis, 1965-1969; Miss Brenda Abrams (now Mrs. Ron Canady), 1969-1975; Mrs. Marsha Smith, 1975-1976; and Miss Anna J. Peele, 1977 to present.

Hyde



Founded 1705

Home demonstration work in Hyde County started through the efforts of Mrs. Retta Neal of Engelhard. This history, compiled in November 1980, is a tribute to her more than 40 years of dedication.

Our first home demonstration agent, Miss Iberia Roach, began work in Hyde County September 1, 1941. Hyde County then became a part of the northeastern district under our district agent, Miss Pauline Smith. The eight clubs organized during our first year were Fairfield, Ponzer, Lake Landing, Scranton, Sladesville, Tiny Oak, Engelhard and Rose Bay, with a total membership of 220 with 135

of these charter members. Two more clubs, Swindell Fork and Nebraska, were organized during the year. Although it was new in home demonstration work, the Hyde County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was represented at our first district federation meeting in Williamston, May 15, 1942.

First Achievement

The first county-wide achievement program was on September 9, 1942 with the district agent, Miss Pauline Smith, as guest speaker. Ninety-nine percent of the club officers were present.

The following year on November 4 Jane S. McKimmon, assistant director of home demonstration work, gave the address. By this time, 12 home demonstration clubs had been chartered in the county:

Engelhard, October 8, 1941; Ponzer, October 9, 1941; Lake Landing, October 10, 1941; Scranton, October 14, 1941; Sladesville, Oc-

tober 16, 1941; Fairfield, October 21, 1941 (reorganized summer 1979); Tiny Oak, November 19, 1941 (reorganized January 31, 1962); Rose Bay, November 29, 1941; Swindell's Fork, March 17, 1942; Nebraska, April 15, 1942; North Lake, February 23, 1943; and Swan Quarter, September 24, 1943.

Later club charters were Pleasant Grove—April 18, 1944; Middletown, January 26, 1951 (disbanded August 24, 1955) and Fortescue Creek, 1961. The first black Extension homemakers club, the Swanetts, was organized on January 21, 1976 with 29 charter members.

There are now eight clubs including the Swanetts. Six of those—Ponzer, Rose Bay, Swan Quarter, Swindell Fork, Engelhard and Nebraska—are the original chartered clubs of the early days. The Lakeside club (reorganization of the original Fairfield club) chartered in the summer of 1979 is the newest club.

Hyde Cookbook

The greatest achievement in the food field has been the publication of the Hyde County cookbook. Recipe collections began in 1949. The project was formally launched by the county council on October 1, 1963 when, following a report by Alice Cann, Sarah S. Spencer (Fairfield club) made the motion to accept the project. Alice Cann, former home demonstration agent, was named chairman and food and nutrition leaders were asked to assist. After 17 years and five editions more than \$11,000 has been collected from the sale of cookbooks. The fifth edition printed earlier this year is dedicated to Iberia R. Tunnell. Five thousand copies are being printed.

Distribution of good reading materials through our bookmobile every month has been a means of educational and reading pleasure. Books have become available on citizenship, international relations, family life, music, arts, and children's literature. Our reading certificate program has encouraged people to do more reading. Many Extension pamphlets and used magazines have been circulated to people through the bookmobile.

Our club health program has provided special study preparation for blood building, disease resistance, body building, and better nutrition. Our clubs have cooperated with the health department in the immunization

programs, Red Cross, and bloodmobile blood donation program.

Safety information during these years on home aid, farm safety, and highway safety has been timely and helpful and, we hope, has saved many lives.

Our home improvement program has included home remodeling, added bathrooms, painting, kitchen improvement, furniture renovation, mattress making, slip covering, and improved water systems. Refinishing old pieces of furniture, long hidden away in attics, has been a rewarding experience.

Special Projects

The home demonstration clubs have helped in community, state, and national projects. During our first years, we helped in the war-effort causes such as victory gardening, home dairying, food-for-freedom campaigns, black outs, Red Cross knitting and sewing, first aid training, making laprobes for soldiers in hospitals, and the sale of war bonds and war stamps.

In community service our clubs helped to establish the Hyde Memorial Park set up on the Mattamuskeet Lake Road by the highway department. Clubs also helped with erection of picnic tables and shelters at the wildlife refuge at Bell Island. Each of these sites has been used for our county-wide Labor Day picnics enjoyed by hundreds of people. We also helped raise Hyde County's quota for the bookmobile used for reading materials in Beaufort, Hyde, and Martin counties. We have also helped, along with churches, fraternal and civic organizations, to plan a fellowship hour for our senior citizens every year since 1964. A "peace tree" was planted on the courthouse lawn in 1964. In 1966 our county council donated \$50 to a college scholarship fund for a Hyde County youth to use in 1966. An amount of \$320 has been paid to the state home demonstration building fund.

Women, through workshops, learned to do simple sewing at first and later became experts at selecting and fitting patterns, selecting suitable materials for personal needs, and even doing expert tailoring. The cleaning and care of our sewing machines was one of the most helpful of all these lessons. A sewing workshop was held in which each 11 clubs made United Nations flags. These were

donated to a church, school, or public place of each club's choice.

Crafts Guild

In 1942 our first craft workshop was broom making from broom corn grown in Hyde County. This workshop was repeated in 1965 to a new audience.

In 1958-1965 attractive fiberglass lampshades and cloth shades were made for better lighting and beauty in our homes. In 1963 five women were invited to participate in the Albemarle Craftsman's Fair in Elizabeth City. Since then, nine Hyde people have demonstrated their work at this fair.

In 1966 an Albemarle craftsman's guild was organized, and seven Hyde County home demonstration club women's works were approved. The ladies were accepted as charter members with the privilege of using the new guild's identification tag on their articles. Three craftsman's guild members have articles on display at the State House in Raleigh.

Much work has been done in food conservation and nutrition to encourage better living. Pressure canners were purchased, and nearly every home in the county was reached through

four economist demonstrators in the food conservation campaign in 1943. Pressure cooker clinics, workshops for food freezing, fig preserves, and the use of more milk, fruits and vegetables resulted in more nutritious diets in the home.

Honors have come to Hyde through the work of some of her home demonstration members. In 1942, one home demonstration club member won third prize money in the state Kerr canning contest. A & P Leadership Award winners were Mrs. Nell Watson in 1963; Mrs. Hazel Harris in 1966; and Mrs. Jean W. Ballance in 1970. Four women have been Mothers of the Year—Mrs. Ada Reaves, Mrs. Exadell Blake, Mrs. Hazel Harris, and Mrs. Rosa Wheeler. Hilda Credle has had perfect attendance at club meetings for 30 years and Lydia Gibbs for 28 years.

Home economics agents who have served Hyde County follow:

Iberia Roach Tunnell, 1941-1949; Ella Carawan, 1949-1951; Alma Lee Cathey Davis, 1951-1954; Carrie S. Joyner, 1954-1955; Alice R. Cann, February, 1955; Jean Woodley Ballance, 1955-1959; Nelda Howell, 1959-1962; Iberia R. Tunnell, 1962-1977; Ann Edge, 1977-.

Iredell



Founded 1788

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, working with the land-grant colleges and Iredell County commissioners, started Extension work to help raise the standard of living for rural families.

The work began with the farmer and dealt with farming methods, but by 1914 Iredell County had a home agent, Miss Cora C. Bell. Few details of the work in those early years are available but women and girls were organized into community clubs called Tomato clubs. Linwood and Shiloh were two of these early clubs, dating back as far as 1913. Clubwomen learned to choose the proper varieties of tomatoes, to grow the plants and,

as the fruit ripened, to can them properly.

By 1926 there were five women's clubs with a total of 75 members. Mrs. W. T. Tatum of the Olin homemaker club shared a memory of that year with us. Her mother, Mrs. G. C. Witherspoon, was secretary of the Olin club that year and Beverly remembers being left home to tend to her baby brother while her mother went to the meeting. Mrs. Virginia Parrott, the home agent that year, gave a demonstration on food: a peach salad with home-made cottage cheese. Beverly remembers her mother being amazed at the idea of eating fruit and cheese and how much the family enjoyed it.

Curb Market Started

That was also the year Iredell County started a local club curb market. For many years the women sold baked goods, fruits and vegetables from their gardens, and hand-made crafts. For the first time many of the women had a chance to earn money that they

could call their own. They increased their poultry flocks to furnish eggs and chickens for their customers, and many families added another milk cow to provide home-churned butter and buttermilk for the market.

One club member baked cakes for the market and became known all over Iredell and surrounding counties. She earned enough money to make a \$300 down payment on a new house in 1937. She also finished paying for the family car and bought a washing machine from her cake sales.

Mrs. L. R. Burgess of the Two-Way club made her spending money by selling her famous persimmon pudding. In one month of 1938, 50 puddings were sold bringing her a total in cash of \$20; a tidy sum in those days.

The year of 1927 saw the start of the club council, bringing representatives from each of the home demonstration clubs to a county meeting. Programs were planned to meet the members' needs and major projects were proper nutrition, clothing, and home improvements.

By 1932 the number of clubs had increased to 15 with almost 500 women enrolled. A major project in those years was trying to get a hot lunch program in the schools. The depression emphasized this need and in 1933 the Iredell home demonstration clubs worked with the welfare department to begin the program. Free lunches were provided for needy children. During the days of the depression and on into the early forties the school lunchroom program received special emphasis. During the weeks of the cotton harvest, schools were dismissed at noon so the children could pick cotton in the afternoons. The club women met at the schools and spent the afternoons canning surplus foods for the hot lunch program. The Shepherd club was especially active in this area. The PTA furnished seed for a school garden from which the women canned 355 quarts of fruits and vegetables. Amity club gave \$60 for equipment for their lunchroom, Scotts club canned 110 quarts of applesauce, and Oakdale club built storage cabinets in their schools.

In 1935 Harmony club won a prize for obtaining the most new club members for the year. They had 89 women on their roll. They received a \$10 prize.

In 1938 Mrs. Mary Pou (later Hendley) served as president of the State Federation of

Home Demonstration Clubs and the next year attended a conference in Washington, D. C., called by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

Home demonstration club women have led the way in introducing new or improved food preservation methods in the county. From canning tomatoes in the early clubs, Extension agents led the way in teaching safe canning methods. In 1937 pressure cookers were introduced to the club women and they taught others in their communities to use them safely. For the first time non-acid vegetables and meats could be safely canned at home. That year there was a 15 percent increase in the amount of food preserved for winter use by the club members. By 1944 they reported owning 375 pressure canners.

Food Conservation Stressed

All during the World War II years, the program emphasis remained on food conservation. Methods of drying foods were studied and community canneries were started. These were usually located at the schools and there the families would bring their fruits and vegetables and all work together to can them in tin cans. Pork, beef, and chickens were also slaughtered and canned or cured.

By 1948 two freezer lockers were operating in the county and again the Extension agents led the way in teaching the proper ways to prepare foods for the freezer.

Over the years many new foods and methods of preparation have been introduced. Tossed salads were introduced in 1943. Many women had never heard of mixing so many raw vegetables together and eating them. Perhaps the most successful experiment along this line was with broccoli. More Vitamin A was needed in our diet and so this new green vegetable was introduced. Growing methods were discussed and Mrs. Harry Moore of the Sharon community grew 6,000 plants for the club women. Ways to cook and serve it were demonstrated as well as proper freezing methods. Later agricultural classes were convinced to grow the plants. Today most Iredell gardens contain broccoli and it remains a very popular vegetable.

As the women of the various communities met and worked together they began to see the need for community centers. As early as 1939 there were four club houses either finished or underway. Sharon club helped finish a Wood-

man hall in their community and Mazeppa club helped finish the fellowship building of a local church for their meeting place.

Bookmobile Started

In 1940 home demonstration club women helped get a county bookmobile to bring services to the rural areas and the reading program of the home demonstration clubs received a big boost from 14 reading certificates awarded in 1939 to 63 in 1940. This program has continued to grow and this year, 40 years later, 170 club members reported reading 2,694 books. Monticello club has won recognition many times for the number of its members receiving reading awards.

The first black home demonstration agent was hired in 1945. She was Miss Juanita Stokes. Before this time, however, Mrs. Mary C. Holliday, school supervisor, worked with black women in groups called Better Homes clubs. One of these clubs was located at Chestnut Grove community.

In 1946 Mrs. Lois Barnhill became the agent and she soon organized a black county council. By the end of the year there were 11 clubs with a total of 200 members.

In 1949 Mrs. Barnhill reported recreation meetings called "husband's nights" were held in 15 communities. Nine home demonstration clubs and six 4-H clubs had an attendance of 1,032.

In 1950 there were 10 clubs with a membership of 321.

In March of 1954 Good-Will home demonstration club was organized by Mrs. Lois Barnhill with Mrs. Minnie Dobbins as president. Good-Will is still a very active club in 1980 and Mrs. Minnie Dobbins is still an active member. Mrs. Ophelia Nichols was council president.

Programs Merged

In 1967 black and white demonstration programs merged into one organization and the name was changed to Extension homemakers organization. That year council co-chairmen were Mrs. Otis Bailey, West Statesville club and Mrs. Howard Shive, Cool Spring club.

Emphasis has been placed on developing

leadership among the members. They help plan the year's programs, adapting them to meet the needs of their local club. The Extension home economics agents then have training sessions for each program and the club leaders carry the information back to their club.

In 1970 Extension homemakers worked together to furnish an idea house at a cost of about \$400. Skills of refinishing furniture, making draperies and accessories were spread throughout the county, as visitors saw results of workshops and requested how-to-do-it information.

Leaders have planned and conducted several projects that gained state and national recognition. In 1974 and 1977 Iredell County won first county in the nation for their work in the area of International Understanding. Projects included an exhibit of "Christmas Trees Around The World" that was visited by 3,000 adults and children in the community and a week's study tour of Washington, D. C. and the Organization of American States.

4-H and Extension homemakers clubs and the Agricultural Extension Service have sponsored a "Festival of Skills" from 1976-80 that has grown in attendance and variety of skills taught. In January 1980 over 40 people served as teachers with 300 different students of all ages. Mrs. Pless Canter served as chairman of the event which included such varied classes as bread making, cutting up a chicken, wood carving, and chair caning.

Center No. 1 Priority

For many years Extension homemakers have recognized the need for an agricultural center. In 1976 at a program planning meeting at Beulah Methodist Church, it was listed as the number one need.

Many members mentioned the need to county commissioners and soon the "dream" was assigned to a local architectural firm. Extension homemakers set up committees to plan to make attractive accessories for the new agricultural center as soon as the architects' drawing of the building was ready.

In 1980 there are 33 clubs in the county with a membership of around 600 paid members.



A panel addresses the State Council of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs at their annual meeting in 1953.



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt visits with Mrs. L.B. Pate, New Bern, state citizenship chairman and Mrs. Gilbert English, Trinity, state international chairman at the third annual Conference on World Affairs, held in Chapel Hill, February 4, 1953.



The coveted A & P Leadership awards recognize contributions by Extension Homemakers. 1959 winners.



Bookmobile projects sponsored by Extension Homemakers in rural areas were the forerunners of an improved library system.



Mrs. Henry S. Walker, Hillsborough, president of Extension Homemakers Clubs in 1966, presents a check for \$100,000 to Chancellor John T. Caldwell. The check started the building fund for the Jane S. McKimmon center on the N.C. State University campus.



Preparing dinners for community events is an excellent way to earn dollars for the Jane S. McKimmon building fund.



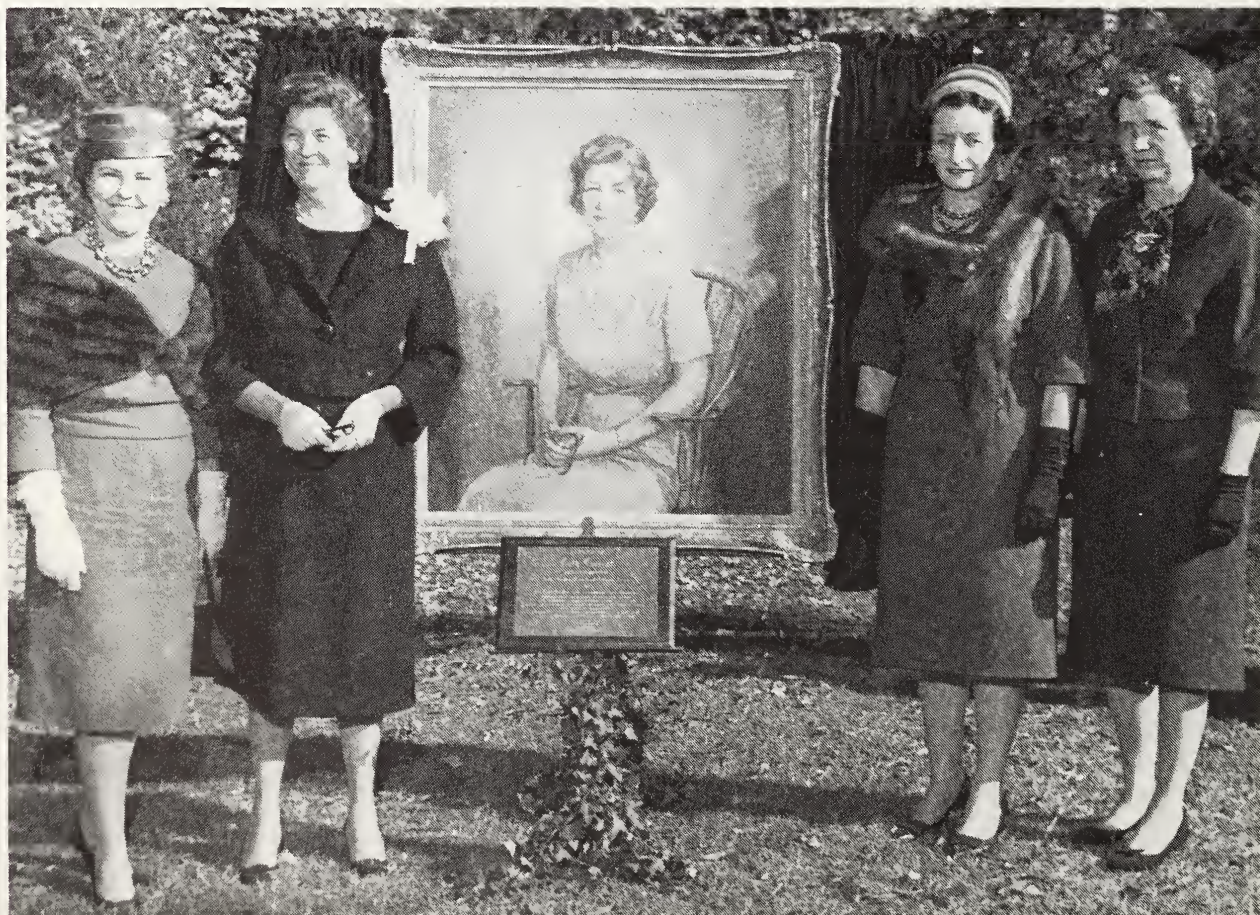
Homemakers learn how to take care of the newest fabrics and fibers at clothing classes conducted during Farm and Home Week.



Officers of the State Council of Home Demonstration Clubs in 1964 with Dr. Eloise Cofer, assistant Extension director, at right.

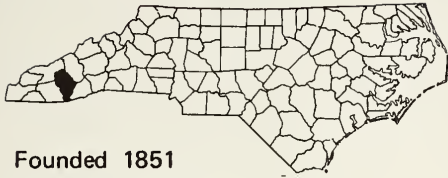


Extension Homemakers celebrate the organization's golden anniversary at a special event in Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh, Tuesday, October 27, 1970.



This portrait of Miss Ruth Current, leader of Extension home economics programs for many years, hangs in Room 6, McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

Jackson



Jackson County Extension Service records show that a home economics agent was employed as an emergency agent in 1918, and in Glenville community an Extension homemakers group was organized in 1922 and reorganized in 1934. In the Cullowhee area a club was organized in 1934 with 20 charter members.

There have been many Extension homemakers groups in the coves and valleys and on the mountain tops since these two were begun in the 1920's and 1930's. Some of these that are not active now but once were are Beta, Addie, Caney Fork, Lovesfield, Old Settlement, Maple Springs, Scott's Creek, Pressley, John's Creek, Sylva, Savannah, and Willets.

Community Health Center

The Cashiers Extension homemakers felt a need for a community health center in 1944 or 1945. The Cashiers home demonstration club became interested and decided to sponsor a community health center as their club project. During 1944 and 1945 they received sufficient donations to start construction of the building in the corner of the school yard. The work of the clinic was entirely preventive medicine. Immunization, dental care, eye examination, pre-natal, well-baby clinic, home nursing and child care were included. The Cashiers-Norton Extension homemakers group is still very active and concerned about the health of the people in their community. The group participates in the bazaar for the Highlands Hospital. The Cashiers-Norton members give their birthday pot fund to Highlands Hospital to help support projects for the hospital.

The birthday pot fund was instigated by one of the Cullowhee members more than 20 years ago. This fund provides a piece of equipment for the hospital each year in the value of \$100. Members contributed to the fund on their birthdays. Also a large black pot is located in the hospital lobby for the public's contributions.

The Victory home demonstration club was organized in 1942, with 12 members, one of whom is still active. The ladies held all of their meetings in the home of members but dreamed of having a building in which they could hold their regular meetings, workshops, etc. With this in mind they started raising money to make this dream come true. Mr. and Mrs. T. Walter Ashe supplied the land for the building. With members and their husbands working together, a club house was erected in the fall of 1954 and the first meeting held in the new building on December 1, 1954. This building is still being used as a clubhouse by the Victory Extension homemakers.

During the years the Victory club has been active in community activities—assisting with bloodmobile, clinics at the hospital, etc.

Fisher Creek in 1949

The Fisher Creek Extension homemakers group was organized in January of 1949 at the home of Mrs. Etta Hooper with 25 members present. Four charter members are still active. The group helped to form the Fisher Creek CDC. The club has participated in raising money for the Asheville Orthopedic Home and more recently, the group has helped with the exceptional children's class at Western Carolina University.

Log Cabin Extension homemakers organized in March, 1955. The Log Cabin homemakers support and assist with county-wide projects.

Green's Creek Extension homemakers held its first meeting in January, 1962. The Green's Creek members have been active in community projects through the years.

In the early fifties, the Jackson County home demonstration clubs opened a curb market in a building near the old Sylva school. It was an open-air market. The clubs also held an annual achievement day along with 4-H's. The interest in 4-H has continued through the years. Some members have served as 4-H club leaders. At present, the county Extension homemakers council sponsors an award for the outstanding 4-H boy and girl in Jackson County each year. They also assist with the EFNEP Day Camps which are held each summer.

In 1975 the Webster Extension homemakers organized. The Webster club actively supports

county-wide programs and has organized a sister club.

The Happy Homemakers Extension club was organized in September, 1977. The members have served on county projects and supported the county-wide program through the various committees.

The Canada Extension homemakers were organized in September 1979. The members of this group are presently sponsoring a weight control group in their community. This group

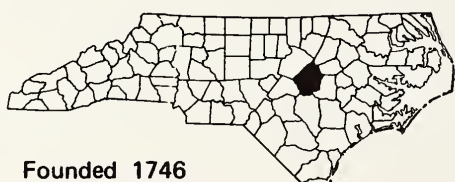
meets weekly.

The Qualla Extension homemakers reorganized on January 24, 1980. The members are in the process of getting committee chairmen and planning programs.

The Webster Extension homemakers explained to the ladies in the Old Settlement about Extension homemakers and aided them in organizing a sister club.

There are 177 Extension homemakers in Jackson County at the present time.

Johnston



Founded 1746

Interest in learning to can seems to have pioneered home demonstration and 4-H girls work in Johnston County. Since none of the first home agents had the opportunity for home economics training, only women of good education, with a good background of culture in homemaking and a deep interest and love to work with humans, were willing to enter into this great adventure.

Mrs. Sarah H. Wellons, a teacher in Johnston County, came forward with this interest and made a beginning on May 12, 1915. Mrs. Wellons was remembered leading her

buggy with canning equipment and Zenda, her buggy horse, toward a rural community where the families were interested in canning. All day long a group of women and girls would can—chiefly tomatoes. The growing of 1/10 acre of tomatoes was one of the requirements of a 4-H club girl. Occasionally, the day's canning demonstration was so long that Mrs. Wellons spent the night in a home in the community in which the meeting was held.

41 Agents Since 1915

Since Mrs. Wellons, there have been 41 Extension home economists. On January 1, 1980, Miss Mary C. Wiggins, associate home economics Extension agent, assumed the role as advisor to the Johnston County Extension homemakers association.

First Tomato Clubs

The first Tomato clubs, Bentonville, Pleasant Grove and Pomona Creech, were formed



Johnston County homemakers enjoy a 1941 study tour to Washington, D.C.



Homemakers visited Mystic Connecticut during the 1976 University Days on Wheels tour.

in 1916. On January 1, 1921, Miss Minnie Lee Garrison, home agent, began to organize adult groups as homemakers clubs and special emphasis was given to girls' 4-H work. By 1922 10 adult clubs with a membership of 250 women and seven 4-H clubs with a membership of 151 girls were being met by Miss Garrison. Today Johnston County has 19 local Extension homemakers organizations with a membership of 300.

These local associations have initiated and implemented numerous educational programs, projects and activities throughout the years. Some of these projects, plus other important data, are listed below according to the year:

1915—First projects were concerned with canning—mostly tomatoes.

1926—Clothing projects were emphasized.

1927—Clubs in Johnston County began to federate and called themselves home demonstration clubs. A county council made up of all the officers from the clubs was organized and began to meet regularly.

1927—Home demonstration women's camp at White Lake, NC. Classes in practical home nursing were held by a Johnston County nurse, teacher, club woman, and home agent.

1929—County funds for salary of home demonstration work were discontinued. Monies were raised by rural families and the salary of the home agent was paid from the monies.

1930-1931—Johnston County was without a home demonstration agent due to lack of monies.

1931—New home agent was hired to do home demonstration work.

1932—Johnston County 4-H Scholarship Fund was started.

Child Training

1933—Child training work was carried on, and a resolution was sent on behalf of Johnston County home demonstration clubs to Dr. Jane S. McKimmon and Dean I. O. Schaub of the Extension Service asking that a specialist in child training be provided for the state as soon as funds permitted.

1933—Johnston County was one of the first rural electrification projects in the state.

1935—First assistant agent, Miss Irene Brown, was hired to work mainly with the 4-H girls clubs.

1935—First Negro home agent, Lucy Hicks, was appointed to organize clubs for Negro women and girls.

- 1936—Nine traveling libraries were started by the home demonstration clubs. A county-wide rural library system was developed and implemented.
- 1940—A unified library system was formed and a county librarian hired.
- 1944—Worked on Red Cross garments. Clubs entertained servicemen at USO centers.
- 1946—Housing program emphasized getting bathrooms into rural homes.
- 1946—Joined counties of Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Wayne and Greene to form the 13th club district.
- 1948—Sponsored a mass tuberculosis X-Ray survey in the county.
- 1950—Had 27 clubs with a 950 membership. First United Nations flags were made in Johnston County and presented to county commissioners. Flags were made and given to schools and churches throughout the county. Programs were given in the schools and churches by home demonstration club members.
- Mrs. Norman Johnson was one of North Carolina's five delegates to Denmark for the International Conference of Home Demonstration Women.

Plant Fruit Trees

- 1951—Encouraged planting of fruit trees. Sponsored lunchrooms at various high schools.
- Sponsored home demonstration choral club which sang on radio programs.
- 1952—The 17th district was formed—comprised of Wayne, Wake and Johnston Counties.
- Clubs sponsored Teenage clubs, husband's nights, mailbox and highway beautification, first aid and home nursing courses.
- 1954—Permanent curb market started with 25 ladies selling. The first two curb markets lasted for very short periods in the 1920's and the 1930's.
- 1956—Supported fund raising program for state home demonstration house.
- First agricultural fair in 20 years in county. Nine home demonstration booths were set up with 650 individual exhibits. There were 130 entries in the annual flower show.
- 1957—Johnston County home demonstration club women decorated the Governor's mansion for the state tea during Farm-

City Week in Raleigh.

First county home demonstration newsletter printed and handled by county publicity chairman.

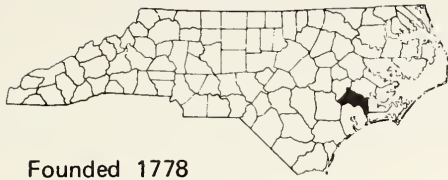
1958—Four monthly demonstrations presented by club leaders.

1958—Began sponsorship of county cancer dressing program.

Lassiter Portrait Unveiled

- 1959—Highlighting national home demonstration week, club women planned a home demonstration luncheon at which time a portrait of the late Mrs. Rena B. Lassiter was unveiled, dedicated, and presented to the Johnston County library. Club women paid tribute to her, as senior editor of the *Smithfield Herald*, and a pioneer for the cause of home demonstration work in Johnston County.
- 1960—Alternate leader program plan began—Agents 6 months and Extension homemakers leaders 6 months.
- 1960's—Clubs sought to have cancer detection clinic established in Johnston County.
- 1965—New Johnston County agricultural building was completed. Extension homemakers furnished pots, pans, dishes, etc. for the new home economics lab.
- 1972—Rachel Everette Hart Home Economics Award established. Presented to five outstanding high school senior girls.
- 1973—Implementation of VEEP award.
- 1976—First Johnston County arts and crafts fair. Formation of the country kitchen which is the largest fund-raising project for the county council.
- 1977—Formation of Johnston County Arts and Crafts Association for quality crafts.
- 1978—First Area Meetings held.
- 1979—Leadership kick-off luncheon in which "Stepping Ahead in Membership" was the theme and emphasis.
- 1980—Largest attendance at an area meeting in the county—300 people. The program was a play titled "Dessie," which is a portrayal of abusive parents. Johnston County hosted the north central district spring day.
- Johnston County has had four members to receive the A & P Leadership Award. They are: Mrs. Ruby Dunn, Mrs. Virginia Lee, Mrs. Helen Smith and Mrs. Eva M. Boettcher.

Jones



Founded 1778

Extension home economics work began officially in Jones County on July 1, 1929, with Miss Alma Thomas Clay as home agent. Her major work at first was in the area of food conservation, with 27 canning demonstrations held the first summer. Three hundred twenty-nine hats were also made. Nine clubs with 186 members were organized that first year, one club in each township and two in Trenton and Beaver Creek. Six clubs met in homes and three in schools. County council was organized in October and has been active since. In 1929, there were only two hard surfaced roads in the county. Clubs began donating to the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund, which has continued to the present day.

5 New Clubs in 1930

Five new clubs of homemakers were added in 1930: Comfort, Shady Grove, Pleasant Hill, Franks Field and Piney Grove, which brought the total to 14, with 296 members. Maysville set aside a school classroom, fully equipped to be used for meetings. Leaders began helping with club meetings and workshops. The home agent's office was equipped. Three hundred twenty-six hats were made and renovated and clubs began Governor Gardner's "Live At Home" program. Mrs. C. B. Andrews was county council president. School buses were used for transportation and the school mimeographed material for the home agent.

In 1931, 18 clubs with 403 members were active. Mrs. Annie C. Hay of Jones County was honored at the farm women's convention in Raleigh as one of five Master Farm Homemakers in North Carolina. Club members helped destitute families during the depression and improved the plights of their own families. The first county club yearbooks were printed. Canning bees were continued for both races. One meeting's program was on how to make children's shoes from discarded garments and hose. Women began community beautification projects. Year-around gardens were reported by 169 club women. County-

wide meetings began to draw families of the county together.

Work continued along these lines in 1932. This year the first state club yearbooks were used in the county. Local leaders began giving solo demonstrations. Approximately 2500 people were reached through the "Milk-For-Health" Campaign, and flour, garden seeds and cloth were distributed in relief work. Traveling libraries were started in seven communities.

In 1934, leaders had charge of four relief canneries in the county during July and August. The clubs were instrumental in getting hot lunches in six schools of the county.

In 1935, homemakers participated in the first agricultural fair held in Kinston. The first county flower show was also held.

Work on Agricultural Building

Construction began on the present agricultural building in 1936. The Service Club helped buy chairs for the new building, the Tide Water Power Company gave an electric stove, and the home demonstration clubs furnished the kitchen.

The agricultural building was completed in 1937. A full-time secretary was added to the Extension office in 1938. A Better Home Week was set to encourage cleaning and fixing up homes and communities, and people from at least 1,000 homes cooperated. Many homemakers learned to make yeast breads that year and continued other home and community improvements.

Electricity was brought into the homes of 150 club members during 1940. Two hundred twenty-five mattresses were made in Jones County for 130 families and this increased in 1941.

Red Cross War Effort

In contributing to the war effort in 1942, 95 club women were members of the Red Cross. Garments and magazines were contributed to Camp Davis for the use of soldiers in camp. In connection with the salvage drive, 90,000 pounds of scrap metal, 1200 pounds of scrap rubber, and 750 pounds of waste fats and grease were contributed. These efforts continued throughout the war. Bonds and stamps, amounting to thousands of dollars were also bought.

Because of the labor shortage during 1943, club leaders encouraged farmers to exchange labor, so that very little tobacco was lost. One hundred forty garments were made for the Red Cross. Clothing was made from feed sacks, and one member reported her bag dress cost 40¢.

In 1946 Negro Extension work began under the direction of Miss Alma Little, first Negro agent in Jones County. Under her leadership four home demonstration clubs were organized. The work of these clubs consisted of sewing for their families and making household items such as bedspreads, pillowslips, chair covers, and canning. Yearly clean-up campaigns were held and it was then that many of the women realized the importance of home demonstration work. Later, under the direction of other agents, nearly all the communities in the county organized into clubs. These include Chestown, Pollocksville, Tuckahoe, Holly Branch, Maysville, Long Point, and Phillips Crossroads.

Much was done on home repairs and in adding storage and bathrooms in 1946. Homemakers began using freezer locker plants for conserving foods.

The Jones County agricultural fair was started in 1947.

In 1948, club women began working to secure a county health department. They also began to actively seek full-scale library service for Jones County.

Handicraft classes were started in 1949, with Miss Rose Elwood Bryan teaching corn

shuck crafts. Club women began helping with the cancer educational program that year. A county health department went into operation on March 1, 1949.

In 1950, club women helped with the first mass chest X-ray campaign for Jones County.

Clothing Drive in 1951

Club women helped with the welfare clothing drive in 1951. Home nursing classes were started. Club members began encouraging local corn meal millers to enrich their meal, and stores to stock enriched corn meal. Freezing foods was becoming even more popular, and home freezers were being added.

A Jones County choral group was organized in 1956. Farm and home development work was started in the county. Jones County had a Master Farm Family in 1957.

During the past 10 years additional dreams have been realized as a result of the continued efforts of the club women. A Jones County public library system has been established, with three libraries and bookmobile service. Clubs have continued supporting the loan funds, the United Nations tour with a delegate each year and polio, cancer, Red Cross, heart and arthritis fund drives. The clubs have also supported the county fair, the county flower show, county housing tour and Christmas idea open house as well as all district and state projects and events. The county has had several district officers and district and state committee chairmen. Another Master Farm Family was selected from Jones County in 1965.



Homemakers in Jones County hone their writing skills during a publicity workshop held in 1957.

1970's and Energy Crisis

The 1970's brought a period of change to Americans with the onset of the energy crisis and inflationary prices. Jones County Extension homemakers studied ways to save energy, especially in the areas of fuel consumption in the home for heating as well as for driving a car. We saw an increased interest in home gardens and more participation in food preservation programs.

1970 was the year that Expo craft show was born and homemakers, who exhibited expertise in the crafts area, Mrs. Vance Griffin, Mrs. Mike Dawson, Mrs. Doris Collins, Mrs. Mary Hood, Mrs. Glennie Johnson and Mrs. Lillie Bryant, participated.

Jones County arts council was organized in 1975 with many Extension homemakers and clubs holding membership.

Mrs. Rom Mallard was elected to the southeastern district first-vice president position in 1975. She served as district president in 1977.

Christmas idea open house was held at the agricultural building in 1975, 1976 and 1977. In 1978 the Extension homemakers sponsored a Christmas housing tour. Homes that had

been built, remodeled or redecorated with the help of the home economics agent, were included in this tour. Extension homemakers hosted a reception afterwards at the agricultural building.

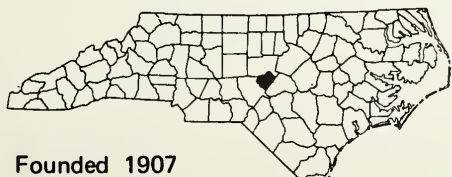
Through the late 1970's club members collected and contributed to collection of cancelled postage stamps to be purchased on foreign markets. The money is used by the Salvation Army to feed hungry children in Bangladesh. Maysville Extension homemakers have led the county each year in the collection of these stamps.

In 1975 the county-wide water system turned water into homes in phases I, II and III. Homemakers were active in promoting an interest in this referendum and promoting clean water for the county.

In 1978 and 1979 Mrs. Edna Earl Mallard served as district health chairman. She attended workshops at Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Camp and in Kenansville.

During 1980 Jones County Extension homemakers have participated in mini-craft workshops to celebrate Extension Homemakers Week.

Lee



Founded 1907

The first home demonstration club work in Lee County was begun in 1915 under the supervision of the late Mrs. J. H. Henley. She left work as home demonstration agent in November of the same year.

Miss Gertrude Little became home agent early in 1916 and served for almost 10 years.

On July 1, 1929 Miss Cornelia Simpson became the new agent and 14 clubs were organized. In 1941 the county council of home demonstration clubs took over the operation of the curb market in Lee County.

Miss Hilda Blanton followed Miss Simpson as home agent, serving from January 1943 to May 1944.

Mrs. Pearl Peebles was the next agent,

holding the position from June 1944 to November 1945.

Miss Gaynell Hogan was the agent from November 1945 to September, 1948.

Mrs. Julia A. Hoyle filled the position from November 1948 until July, 1955.

Mrs. Lela H. Mueller was the agent from July 1955 to August 1956.

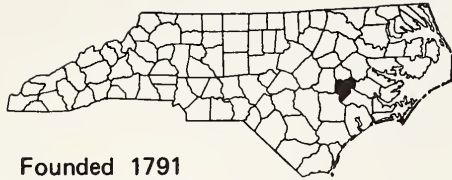
Mrs. Monica Brown Patterson was the agent from October 1957 to January 1960.

In January 1960 Miss Mary Estelle Doyle joined the Lee County Extension staff. In 1958 the title of home agents was officially changed from home demonstration agent to county home economics Extension agent.

In October, 1973 Faye Thorpe Donnell came to Lee County as our Extension agent and is still serving.

In 1930 the first home demonstration county council was organized. The council was—and is now—made up of all the officers of local clubs as well as county project leaders and committee chairmen. It still meets at least four times each year to transact business of the organization.

Lenoir



Home demonstration clubs began in Lenoir County on September 1, 1935 when the first Extension home agent, Miss Mae Swann, was employed. Estelle T. Smith was the district agent and Jane S. McKimmon was the state agent. The Extension office was in a small building behind the Lenoir County Courthouse and Miss Swann shared this building with the county farm agent, C. M. Brickhouse.

With the organization of rural women as the primary goal, Mr. Brickhouse accompanied Miss Swann to different areas of the county to acquaint her with the people. After visiting with a resident in a particular area, Miss Swann would contact all the other women who would be interested in organizing a club in the community. The response was enthusiastic and the women put all they had into their club.

Statewide programs of clothing, home beautification, child care and food preservation were followed. A lot of emphasis was placed on canning food, especially meat for the winter. The home agent used one pressure canner to hold canning sessions with the clubs.

Emphasis on Canning

Gradually, leadership was organized and club members were expected to give reports of interest at each meeting. Recreation and crafts were essential at all meetings. Sit-down games were played and the women learned

simple stitchery and other crafts basic to homemaking. A highlight of each year was a special night for husbands.

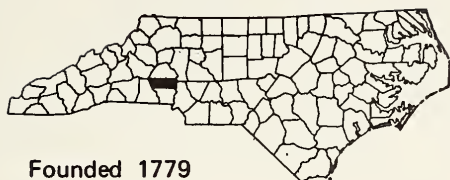
The clubs took trips to the mountains and to the World's Fair in New York. Two busloads of Extension homemakers attended the annual meeting of Country Women of the World in Washington, D. C. In all the group, only one woman had ever stayed in a hotel because there was little opportunity to travel.

Once a year, a recreation school was conducted to teach others in the community. Miss Swann organized the county council and eight clubs with 210 members, during the first year. Women in the clubs were also trained to become 4-H leaders. With the increased workload, Miss Swann was given two assistants—Marie Dawson and Marguerite Kennedy. She was also in charge of the curb market, county fair booths and state fair exhibits.

During World War II all Extension homemakers participated in the war effort by planting victory gardens. A cannery was set up to package certain food items for families to send overseas to servicemen. A service club was established for those that were too old to be in 4-H and too young to be Extension homemakers.

Lenoir County has had three state presidents: Mrs. Herman Johnson, Mrs. Paul Fletcher and Mrs. Melvin Whitfield. During Mrs. Johnson's term, North Carolina hosted the National Home Demonstration Council meeting in Raleigh. This is the only time North Carolina has hosted this meeting. Mrs. Fletcher served as Secretary of the National Extension Homemakers Council; the first North Carolinian elected to hold a national office.

Lincoln



Founded 1779

Mrs. Florence R. Winn organized a Tomato club in Reepsville in 1916. Each member planted 1/10 acre of tomatoes.

Mrs. B. M. Bolinger (Elese Kiser) said members met at her home to can tomatoes because her father, the late Dr. W. C. Kiser, bought a tin cannery for the club. Tomatoes, beans and peaches were canned. Mrs. Bolinger has the silver cup awarded the Reepsville club in 1917 by the Gaston County fair. Club members wore red homemade arm bands. After 4 years of work, Mrs. Bolinger received a certificate in 1920, signed by Mrs. Winn, agent and Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, state agent.

Tomato clubs were also organized in Howards Creek, Iron Station, Hickory Grove and maybe other communities prior to 1920. However, they were disbanded in the early 1920's and there was no organized Extension club work in Lincoln County until home

demonstration and 4-H club work began in the early 1930's.

When Miss Anne Priest came in 1939, seven clubs were organized. They were County Line, Hickory Grove, Neva Long, Oak Grove, Salem, Union and Vale. Since that time, 25 more clubs have been started but 12 have either disbanded or united with other groups.

25th Anniversary in 1964

In 1964 homemakers celebrated their 25th anniversary on achievement night with several past agents present as guests. Agents who served for a number of years were: Miss Ainslee Alexander, Mrs. Margie Honeycutt Richardson, and Mrs. Nancy Clinton Crocker. There were many others who were quite capable leaders and still remembered.

Lincoln County has had one state president, Mrs. H. C. Little, who also was chairman of the 50th anniversary celebration in 1970. Other members have served in state positions through the years.

The following have been A & P Award winners: 1963—Mrs. H. C. Little; 1967—Mrs. Roy Nixon; 1968—Mrs. Columbus Turner, Sr.; 1973—Mrs. Howard Hill; 1977—Mrs. Columbus Turner, Jr.



Former Extension Home Economics agents and Mrs. H. C. Little, past state president, were honored at Lincoln County's 25th anniversary celebration.

On the district level, Lincoln County has had presidents as well as other officers and work chairmen since Extension work was revived in the 1930's.

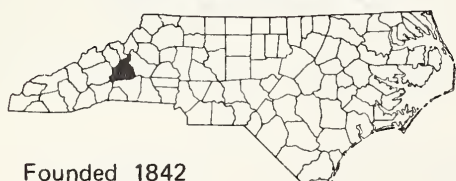
Mrs. Roy Nixon is current editor of our magazine "Tar Heel Homemaker."

Lincoln County has 18 active clubs which hold monthly meetings either in homes, church fellowship halls or club buildings. The

active clubs and year organized are:

Ainslee Alexander, 1954; Battleground, 1964; Boger City, 1949; County Line, 1939; Crouse, 1975; Denver, 1940; Hickory Grove, 1939; Iron Station, 1975; Long Shoals, 1957; Lowesville, 1960; Noon Timers, 1980; North Brook I, 1940; North Brook II, 1978; Riverside, 1968; Salem, 1939; Twin Communities, 1948; Union, 1939; and Vale, 1939.

McDowell



The first home economics agent to work in McDowell County was Miss Sarah Porter Ellis who worked part time from July 1927 to December 1929. Mrs. Marie Cox Matheson worked part time during 1931 and 1932. Mrs. Frances McGregor Wall worked for a month in 1934 and Mrs. Flack Reid worked for 2½ months in 1934. Mrs. J. H. L. Miller, a McDowell County homemaker, was instrumental in getting a full-time home demonstration agent.

Miss Anne Tucker, the first full-time agent, worked from 1935 to 1939. The first home demonstration clubs were organized shortly after Miss Tucker, a former teacher in the county, began to work as a home demonstration agent. Some of the first programs in 1935 were on canning beans and corn; cleaning; blocking and renovating old hats; origin and customs of Christmas; packing a school lunch; the pulse of fashion; getting ready to sew; commercial patterns; pattern alterations; looking your best; putting snap in your work; pepping up the wardrobe; bound buttonholes; care and repair of clothing; making jelly; refinishing furniture; and chair seating.

Donate to McKimmon Fund

Each club had a score for each month. Leaders were active in giving reports and promoting special projects, especially in the clothing, foods, and gardening areas. Clubs donated 25¢ per meeting to the Jane S. McKimmon fund for a continuing education

center on the N. C. State University campus.

County council was started in 1935. Mrs. J. H. L. Miller and three or four other homemakers petitioned the McDowell County Chamber of Commerce to make the home demonstration county council a recognized organization. Mrs. Miller later served as president of North Carolina Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.

"Home demonstration" was truly depictive of the clubs. The agent met each month with each club and gave a demonstration. Whenever possible, the club members constructed or practiced a project such as bound buttonholes. Club members learned crafts and other skills and often accompanied the agent to other clubs to teach. They also demonstrated at district and state meetings.

For several years the clubs operated a curb market in the county office each Saturday. Baked goods and vegetables were featured.

In the 1940's a county-wide chorus of home demonstration members was very active and successful. Some of the programs in the 1940's and 1950's were on gardening topics and husbands were invited guests. Other programs in the 1940's were on mattress making; corn shuck sandals; making potato puffs; types of necklaces and collars; and cooking greens. Leading programs in the 1950's were on such topics as foods and nutrition, home gardens, home poultry, home dairy, food conservation, house furnishings, home management, family life, home beautification, clothing, health, and 4-H club leaders.

Copper Stills

In 1955 home demonstration women persuaded the county sheriff to donate some of the confiscated copper stills to be made into articles for the home. Following are excerpts from a news article published in a 1955 edition

of the *McDowell News* and written by Rena Noblitt HD publicity director:

"Little did Sheriff Robinson think when he captured a copper still from a blockader's hideout, that some day it would be transformed into vessels of beauty and usefulness.

"But he had not reckoned with the resourcefulness of a woman's mind.

"Copper is expensive, and no matter how much we HD women wanted to decorate our homes with the lovely copper vases, flower containers, fruit bowls, etc., our budget would not permit all we needed.

"Then somebody thought about the copper stills the sheriff's department had stored away in the courthouse, and turned loose their power of persuasion, and we got some of them!

"The tanks are crusted with soot and smoke, and are very hard to clean.

"When we got to the Cherry Springs Community House one morning recently, we found Mrs. John Early sitting on the steps scouring a rectangle of this still copper, with steel wool. One by one, the women came in, carrying lunch baskets, babies, and their sheets of copper. Most of them had the cleaning task done, and the copper was ready for 'hammering'."

Another project of home demonstration club members, better storage, was also featured in the local newspaper.

"All of us can recall the days when the only place we had to keep our canned foods was to pack the jars in cardboard boxes, then stack one box upon another, and keep in the kitchen, or sometimes in the living room to prevent freezing during the winter.

"Even then, in a severe freeze, many jars of precious food would freeze and burst, or the freezing would destroy the flavor until it could not be used.

"When our eyes were opened to all the wasted wall space in our homes, by the HD program, we began to plan for storage rooms.

"We built them upstairs in space-robbing hallways, under the stairs and on unused back

porches. We built them on, we built them in, and we built separate, small houses especially for storage. If we did not have a basement, we excavated one."

"Model Mile"

Home demonstration clubs also took part in 1955 in an impressive community project called the "Model Mile" where home, ground and building improvements and beautification are demonstrated. According to a 1955 issue of the *McDowell News*, "These 'Model Miles' over McDowell County have aroused an intense interest, and the people who are lucky enough to live on the 'mile,' feel as though they have had an extra special privilege bestowed upon them.

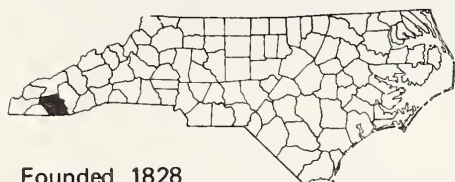
"It is not only a privilege but indications show that most of the 'mile dwellers' have taken their position as a solemn responsibility.

"Some have worked wonders, some have just started making improvements, but all have done something to create attractiveness."

During the 1960's family life was a featured project for Extension homemakers. The national bicentennial celebration was important to Extension homemakers during the middle 1970's. In the fall of 1975 clubs made displays of historic events of the 13 original colonies at a historic site in McDowell County. All Extension homemakers made costumes and greeted the 1,700 guests who attended the "Re-living Our American Heritage" event. In the fall of 1976 Extension homemakers held a similar festival with approximately 1,000 guests in attendance.

Extension homemakers have begun the 1980's with energy conservation and "back to basics" projects. Twelve associations are currently organized with four associations in the process of organizing. At least 20 charter members are still very active in their clubs.

Macon



Founded 1828

A front page news article in *The Franklin Press*, dated October 10, 1935, tells of the beginning of home demonstration clubs in Macon County.

"Two Home Demonstration Clubs have been organized by Mrs. Katherine M. O'Neil, recently appointed home agent for the county. A meeting has been called for organization of a third."

The three clubs and their presidents were Holly Springs, Mrs. A. G. Kinsland; Cartoogechaye, Mrs. Carl Slagle; and Iotla, Mrs. Wade Moody.

Mrs. O'Neil began work in July, 1935 as the first full-time home demonstration agent. (Miss Laura Jones was the first woman to do work similar to an agent's role from 1915-1916.) After working for 6 months in Macon County, Mrs. O'Neil expanded the program to include Clay County. County commissioners who supported this beginning were A. B. Slagle, Ed Byrd and Charley Blaine. All through the years the commissioners have been most cooperative and generous.

Although the first home economics agents had to combat almost impossible roads and audiences who knew little about the program the state had to offer, a solid foundation was laid on which a program has grown far beyond the homemakers' expectations and greatest dreams.

410 Members in 1941

Six years later the headlines read "Six Years Show Progress in Homemaking and Marketing—Home Demonstration Clubs Carry on Varied Programs." In 1941, 410 members were enrolled in the following clubs: Holly Springs, Walnut Creek, Otto, Cullasaja, Otter Creek, Scaly, Iotla, Oak Grove, Stiles-Tellico, Patton, Cartoogechaye, Union, Hickory Knoll, and West's Mill. Today, 1980, seven of these same groups are still organized under the same name. Other community groups are Modern, Friendly, West Union, Carson, Cowee, Coweeta, Watauga, Clarks

Chapel, Bethel, Higdonville, and Franklin. Four hundred and eighty-five members receive the monthly newsletter. County officers in 1941 were Mrs. Robert Bennett, Iotla, president; Mrs. Jim Gray, Hickory Knoll, vice president; Mrs. Zeb Conley, Cartoogechaye, secretary and treasurer.

Major efforts during the 1940's included group projects such as the Franklin curb market, a mattress project in cooperation with other federal agencies, and the operation of a county craft center. Under the leadership of Mrs. Ed Byrd of the Stiles-Tellico club, the members sold eggs, dairy products, dressed chickens, pies, vegetables, canned foods, and various crafts. Nine regular sellers kept the market open on Saturday morning for a number of years. This extra income helped many families.

Approximately 1,170 cotton mattresses were made by farm families in the county. One mattress placed on exhibit in Washington, D.C. was constructed by a Macon County couple.

The first craft center was sponsored by the homemakers county council in cooperation with Mrs. Carl Slagle, instructor of industrial education. On Thursday of each week, Mrs. Slagle taught classes over Reeves hardware store. She was assisted by a volunteer leader, Mrs. Hunter Calloway. During 1940, 43 pupils learned a craft skill that meant increased income as well as a new hobby. An Extension homemakers craft group was organized in 1979 under the leadership of Mrs. Edna Gibson of the Carson community. Planned monthly workshops have provided many opportunities for interested craftsmen.

Arts Program Stressed

Since its beginning, the arts program has included more than creating handmade items for gifts, home furnishings or for sale. Musical programs, tours to art museums and historical sites and the "lap reading" program to benefit the children have all been important.

Homemakers in Macon County have always been willing to accept new ideas and changes. This is evident by minutes recorded of a council meeting on December 3, 1953. A paragraph reads, "Mrs. Cabe (Mrs. Jack) read a letter from the Cartoogechaye club suggesting that we substitute a county fair for our achieve-

ment day. A committee composed of Mrs. E. R. Andrus, Mrs. Cabe and Mrs. Wiley Brown was named to meet with the community development council to discuss the matter."

Miss Helen Freas and the home economics agent attended a statewide cultural arts seminar in 1975 in Winston-Salem. With the help of other interested citizens, the Macon County cultural arts council was formed that same year. The membership is today more than 200.

Homemakers have for many years been receptive to training in the area of family life or human development. Thus, the emphasis on family education subjects has been successful. The family life council idea originated in a study committee composed of homemakers and was officially organized in 1977.

The tutorial program, one of the council's most successful projects, has been supported by many Extension homemakers. Individual members have through the years worked on hundreds of community projects such as beautification, health and food-related services, improved housing, and other educational endeavors, all of great benefit to the community.

Help Establish Library

Memorial books have been purchased for the county library since 1962. This first year, books were placed there to honor Mrs. Fred Wood, Mrs. Carl Slagle, Mrs. Mary E. Brown, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. Earl Dryman, and Mrs. Lester Waldroop. Local groups have also purchased books for local school libraries. Homemakers contributed approximately \$2000 toward the construction of a new library, built in the 1970's.

Four cookbook editions have been published since 1961 for a total of more than 20,000 books.

Profit from the cookbooks has made it possible for the homemakers association to supplement the expenses of delegates to district, state and national meetings.

Long before the members became known as Extension homemakers, leadership training was a major part of learning experiences and opportunities. Mrs. J. S. Gray served as state president in 1950. Homemakers were assuming more and more leadership roles. Local group chairmen began to teach lessons not only at the local meetings, but in other groups. Since 1974 three members have received the A & P Leadership Awards—Dixie Barker, Geneva Shuler, and Frances Teague. We have been well represented at state and national meetings.

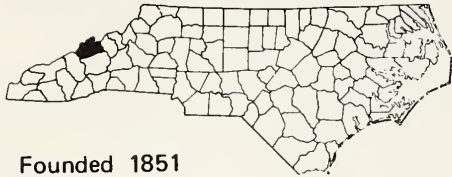
3 Agents Since 1954

Since 1954 the county has always been fortunate in having three home economics agents. Agents who have assumed the major responsibility of the Extension homemakers organization since Mrs. O'Neil, have been Mrs. Florence Sherrill, Mrs. Carolyn Cogan, and Mrs. Jessie Cabe.

Since 1941, homemakers serving as county president were Mrs. J. S. Gray, Mrs. Robert Fulton, Mrs. Robert Parish, Mrs. Grady Owens, Mrs. J. R. Ray, Mrs. Ralph Bradley, Mrs. Jack Cabe, Mrs. Dan Reynolds, Mrs. Frank Murray, Mrs. George Byrd, Mrs. C. T. Bryson, Mrs. Sammy Bryson, Jr., Mrs. Pritchard Russell, Mrs. Earl Cabe, Mrs. Thomas Lindsay, Mrs. Earl Smart, Mrs. Emil Roth, Mrs. Dixie Barker, Mrs. Geneva Shuler, Mrs. Dorothy Ashe, Mrs. Frances Teague, and Mrs. Jane Downs.

It is the same today as in 1935—women who affiliate with Extension homemakers do so to learn by doing and to serve others, both individually and in groups.

Madison



I. O. Schaub was the real friend who pushed, talked, and helped plan for work with women and girls in North Carolina. Dr. Jane S. McKimmon dreamed, got permission, and tried her ideas with women and girls in bread baking, gardening and growing tomatoes as early as 1909.

By 1911, after a conference with the state superintendent of public instruction, J. Y. Joyner, each board of education in counties with the Farmer's Cooperative Demonstration work agreed to set aside \$75 for girls' work per county. Each county was expected to set aside \$75 to employ a home agent 2 months during the growing and canning season. There were 14 counties in this group that agreed. They were Alamance, Catawba, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Hertford, Madison, Mecklenburg, Moore, Pitt, Wake and Wilkes. Wayne County furnished only \$50 a year.

4 State Agents in 1911

By November 1911, four state agents had been employed for 4-month terms. By March 1912, each of the 14 counties had a home agent employed. Miss Ollie Hendricks, over 40 years of age, was a home missionary of the Northern Presbyterian church and had been sent to the Big Laurel section of Madison to work with families in this remote mountain community. Miss Hendricks could be seen with her canner tied to her saddle riding her horse up the coves to the homes. Miss Hendricks caught a ride with the mailman sometimes. She worked in Madison County until 1920. Many of our county residents well remember the classes of needlework, food preparation, and canning in their own communities.

Miss Janie McFadden came to the county in 1920, and worked until 1922. She married Jack Ramsey of Marshall and moved away. There was no home agent in the county during the years of 1922 to 1927.

Other home economics agents were Miss Frances Crafton (Ramsey) serving from November 1927, to Spring of 1934. Mrs. Edith

McGlamery was home agent from 1943 to 1945; Miss Madge Rhyan was the first assistant agent for 1944 to 1947; Mrs. Iva Benton served 10 months in 1946; Mrs. Margaret Debruhl Smith 1946 to 1953; Mrs. Janie McFadden Ramsey came back to the county as home agent in 1954 to 1958; Mrs. Marie Buckner was assistant home agent from 1954 to 1958; Mrs. Marion Wilson Wallin was home agent from 1958 to 1960; and Miss Ethel Townsend Wallin began as assistant agent in 1959 and has served as home agent since 1960. Miss Barbara Rhodes was on the staff from 1964 to 1965; Miss Madge Guffey, 1965 to 1971; Miss Cynthia Berban, 1971-1973; and Miss Dale Everett, 1973-1978. Mrs. Linda Harrell went to work in 1968 as TVA assistant agent. The position terminated in 1976. These women have worked with youth and adults through the years.

About 19 communities have organized homemakers clubs over the years. The Walnut club was organized about 1912. They had an active group, and during the years with no home agent, they faithfully kept their club going. Little Pine began in 1918 with Mrs. Ersula Shelton working there during the summer months and in Raleigh in the winter. She held canning and hat-making workshops. Her project with youth was to organize a pig club but due to opposition this program did not go. Six to eight interested women attended the women's club meetings with Mrs. Bernie Payne, a young teacher and homemaker in the community. Upper Laurel club, organized in 1928, met in the Ebbs Chapel school. California Creek organized in 1931; Bailey Branch, 1954; Paint Fork, 1946; Mars Hill, 1946; Barnard, 1945; Beech Glen, 1947; Grapevine, 1952; Sleepy Valley, 1954; and Mars Hill Young Homemakers, 1965.

We have no organization dates for Bull Creek, Hayes Run, Walnut Creek, Marshall and Hot Springs clubs.

Floods Destroy Records

There is little written history of Extension homemakers association clubs and activities in Madison County since the records were stored in the basement of the courthouse and were ruined by floods. However, several members, both present and past, recall a number of club and community projects over the years. In 1921, the first 4-H county camping program

was held on the campus of Mars Hill College with 20 participants and home demonstration club members helping. Members continued to serve as adult 4-H leaders over the years.

Mrs. Edwin Jarvis was a state winner in 1929 in the women's dress making contest with a black and white gingham suit. The county has also been asked several times to build booths for state fairs. Some of the remembered themes are "Books"; a demonstration of "The Fireless Cooker"; and a home management display on "The Cost and Expense of Car Upkeep." In 1979, it was "Dry It, You'll Like It," a display of numerous fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers preserved by drying, along with examples of several types of dehydrators. The booths on "Car Upkeep" and "Drying" were first place winners.

'Green and Growing' Pageant

In 1954, county men, women, and children participated in a state celebration in Raleigh when the pageant "Green and Growing" was presented. Various counties were responsible for chapters of the book *When We're Green, We Grow* by Dr. McKimmon.

In 1954, a *Progressive Farmer* Award of \$25 was used to begin the library fund. The county was also awarded a \$500 prize on condition that it be used for the benefit of the community. Home demonstration leaders had long been concerned about the lack of a public library so it was decided that this was it! Mrs. Dorothy Shupe was sent to the county board of commissioners, after learning from state sources that \$3,000 would be needed. The county officials did not feel they could include this amount in the budget for that year, but did agree to include it in the budget the following year *IF* the ladies managed to raise the money the first year. They didn't know how badly the ladies wanted a library! A committee of five was formed with Lucille Burnette in charge and they combed the county until they had the \$3,344. Lucille even gave up a planned trip to Raleigh for club week in order to travel the county roads asking for donations. The library started modestly in a used bookmobile which was purchased in the eastern part of the state for \$500 in August of 1955. It was beautiful to the home demonstration members and served the purpose until a

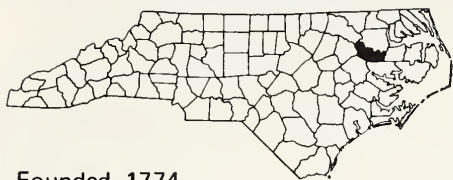
new one could be bought. Peggy Dottery was librarian and worked out of Hot Springs.

Community Leadership Strong

Throughout the years, the strongest leadership in the community development projects has been provided by Extension homemakers. They have helped with the bloodmobile visits since they began and have always supported health and safety programs. A 1951 report states that all members were urged to visit the cancer clinic in Asheville. Of the 171 women who went, 35 had various symptoms. Of the 13 who showed serious symptoms nine were cured, two were still under treatment and two had died. That same year, home demonstration leaders in cooperation with the tuberculosis association had secured the mobile X-ray unit for the health department for a month and all members were X-rayed. Also typhoid clinics were held in all the communities and two nutrition clinics were organized. Well, spring, and reservoir water was tested. A heart association was formed after a survey determining that heart trouble was the greatest cause of deaths in the county the previous year. The health department in the county was two years old at that time and was certainly being supported by home demonstration clubs!

Madison County has had numerous district officers and several who have served on the state executive boards. Lucille Burnette received one of the A & P Leadership Awards in 1959. Madison is always well represented at district and state meetings but our community projects are appreciated and attended by people from the entire county. From 1959 through 1963, achievement day was held annually. This became a full-day fair with exhibits and judging done in canning and needlework. For the past 10 years, we have held an annual Christmas exhibit to show our latest arts and crafts. In 1979, we added an exhibit of handmade Christmas ornaments in the library window. We have always collected Christmas gifts to be distributed at Broughton Hospital and last year (1979) donated enough gifts so that the nutrition aides working in the county could deliver presents to every family they visit.

Martin



Founded 1774

The Martin County Extension homemakers have had many years of fruitful growth. The starting point was around 1918 with the first canning clubs. Enrollment in what was known as home demonstration clubs and now is Extension homemakers clubs remains steady with very few new enrollees.

There have been numerous agents that have helped these clubs along the way. Among them were the following:

Mrs. Esther McGluyas, 1918-1921; Miss Anna Trentham, 1926-1927; Miss Lora E. Sleeper, 1928-1939; Mrs. Cleopatra Tyner, 1939; Miss Mildred Pigg, 1940-1945; Miss Elizabeth Parker, 1946-1956; Miss Mary Brooks, 1955-1962; Mrs. Helen Hoskins, 1957-1976; and Mrs. Vivian Morris, 1963-1977.

Other agents who have served were: Miss Garnette Croker, Miss Agnes Beal, Miss Ruby

Lee Spencer, Miss Peggy Jordan, Miss Emma Lou Chapel, Mrs. Edith Mallard Cox, Miss Elizabeth Wilson, Mrs. Jane Taylor, Mrs. Ila F. Parker, 1966 to present, and Mrs. Evelyn D. DeLoatch, 1977 to present.

Fond Memories

Several charter members of Extension homemakers clubs are still active members of existing clubs. These ladies as well as some of the newer members recall activities carried on in their meetings. Following are recollections of some of their fondest memories:

- Mrs. Tyner always told how to make old things look like new. For example, for an old hat, add a flower; and for an old chair, new coat of paint.
- The Fall Festival.
- Workshops on how to make mattresses and burlap curtains.
- Workshops on how to make pine straw baskets.
- Christmas wreaths made out of pine cones.
- A meeting at Swan Quarter when cauliflower flowers were used as table decorations.



Martin County Extension Homemakers display learning cubes they made for children in the lapreading program.

- Dogwood trees set out at churches.
- Each club taking a turn at fixing dinners.
- Yard of the month.
- Infirmary at Jamesville School kept up by Extension homemakers.
- Clubs selling vanilla flavoring, brooms, light bulbs and get-well cards.
- A wedding shower held for Mrs. Velma Griffin by members of the Macedonia club.
- A pressure cooker purchased for use by the clubs.
- Dues started at 10¢ for each club meeting.
- Booths at county fair.
- Workshops to make bread baskets.
- Visits to tobacco factory.
- District meetings held after Easter and when homemakers always wore their Easter best.

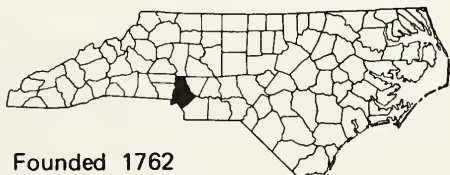
- Workshops on refinishing and upholstering furniture.

There are ten organized homemakers clubs in Martin County. Over the years 19 have disbanded. Present clubs and year organized are as follows:

Bear Grass, 1930; Dardens, 1949; Fairview, 1950; Holly Springs, 1973; Macedonia, 1931; Oak Pilgrim, unknown; Polar Chapel, unknown; Robersonville, 1945; Williams, 1935; and Williamston, 1946.

Clubs that have disbanded include the following: Bethlehem, Community, Hassell, Jamesville, Cross Roads I, Cross Roads II, Everetts, Farm Life, Gold Point, Hamilton, Williams Chapel, Williamston II, Parmele, Poplar Point, Robersonville II, Robersonville Young Extension Homemakers, Skewarkee, Smithwick Creek, and Sweet Home.

Mecklenburg



A significant year to the women in North Carolina was 1911. Home demonstration work was organized in five pioneer states; South Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee.

In the Spring of 1912, agents covered 14 counties in North Carolina; Alamance, Catawba, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Hertford, Madison, Mecklenburg, Moore, Pitt, Wake, Wayne and Wilkes.

Workers were called collaborators and first came through by train with demonstrations set up in box cars. The farm agent gave demonstrations mainly on growing cotton under boll weevil conditions. The home agent gave educational demonstrations in home-making.

Miss Annie Lee Rankin was the first home agent assigned to Mecklenburg County at a salary of \$150 for the year. This was paid by the General Education Board. She was expected to work year-round, but with special emphasis during the canning season.

Agents were educated persons, mostly rural school teachers.

Club Work in 1909

4-H club work had already begun in 1909 with Corn clubs for boys and Tomato clubs for girls. It was suggested by Miss Marie Cromer, pioneer home agent of South Carolina, that farm girls could be brought together by growing 1/10 acre of tomatoes. Not only were these young people given guidance in growing top-quality produce for northern markets, local hotels and state institutions, but also were being encouraged to can these foods for home use.

May 1914 was a real milestone for the Extension Service. At this time, the famous Smith-Lever Act was passed appropriating funds for what was to be known as Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Service. By cooperating with the land-grant college, every state in the nation could now enjoy the opportunities of the Extension Service.

Martha Creighton Agent

In 1915, Miss Martha Creighton came to Mecklenburg County as home agent. There was a very loose organization during these years prior to the first World War; however, records do state that it was through home demonstration clubs that the machinery was

provided for much of the war emergency work in 1918.

Through the home demonstration clubs there was a systematic way for caring for the sick in the country, with trained leaders acting as practical nurses and operating soup kitchens for those in need.

The first work of the home demonstration agent included instruction for all people both Negro and white. In 1918, the first home demonstration organization for Negroes was established. Emergency Negro home agents were placed in 41 counties. At this time, there were white agents in 71 North Carolina counties. After the war emergency period, organized counties dropped to 51 for white, and Negro work was discontinued.

Things began to look up in 1919 when Miss Martha Creighton, home agent, invited the existing clubs to a meeting in the old courthouse to form a county organization. There were 13 women present, three of whom are living today (1969). The three are Mrs. R. E. McDowell, Mrs. W. F. Watt, and Mrs. Harvey B. Hunter, with Mrs. McDowell elected first federation president. Records are not completely clear as to which clubs made up this original federation. Park Road was the first organized home demonstration club in the county. A community group in Nevin had been meeting together as a Billy Sunday prayer group, later calling themselves the "Help One Another Club." Hearing about the Park Road home demonstration club, the Nevin group became the second home demonstration club in Mecklenburg County.

Two additional clubs which were part of the federation in 1919 were Sharon and Huntersville.

In 1921, Mrs. McDowell was elected state federation president. Miss Creighton was appointed district agent and was succeeded by Miss Marian Davis, who remained only one year. She was replaced by Miss Bertha Proffitt.

In May 1923, the federation included Central Steele Creek, Derita, Ebenezer, Hopewell, McIver, Nevin, Prosperity, Sardis, Trinity, Park Road, Huntersville, Dixie and Shopton. Mrs. Harvey B. Hunter served as federation president in 1923. First steps were taken in 1923 toward the establishment of a market for selling produce.

The need for library facilities throughout

the county and courthouse improvements was recognized. After homemakers approached the county commissioners, \$5,000 was appropriated for library Extension work and a plan was proposed for rest rooms in the courthouse in 1925.

Margarine For Butter

About this time, Miss Proffitt, the home agent, gave a demonstration on the use of margarine. She insisted that it could be used in place of butter. Miss Delano Wilson replaced Miss Proffitt as home agent in 1926.

The federation had its first meeting in the new club house on South Myers Street. This was a gift of the county commissioners and was to be shared with the Red Cross, P.T.A. and Mecklenburg Sanatorium Board.

A new club house sounds great, but along with it were the problems of upkeep, buying coal, frozen pipes and furnace repair. This finally led to joint ownership with the American Legion and eventually with the federation moving back to the courthouse in 1933.

By the 1930's, home demonstration work was much stronger in Mecklenburg County. In 1929, Negro home demonstration work was reorganized with Miss Wilhelmina Laws as agent.

The home demonstration council sponsored the privy project and, during the years 1934-36, promoted the building of 12,577 sanitary privies in North Carolina.

In 1936, 12 counties employed full-time Negro home agents. Mrs. Margaret Rogers guided the first Negro achievement day in Mecklenburg County which was held in Clear Creek High School.

Helen John Wright replaced her sister, Mrs. Max Culp, as home agent in 1938.

In 1939, Mrs. W. E. Neill served as state president of the North Carolina home demonstration clubs. Mrs. Vester McLaughlin led the council on two occasions—first in 1940 and again in 1965.

Yes, we remember Pearl Harbor. We also remember the garments we made for Bundles for Britain and the 1,438 cotton mattresses made in the mattress program. Victory gardens were urged and the club women assisted the lunchrooms by giving canned foods and raising funds to finance school lunch rooms.

Two war food assistants were assigned to

the Mecklenburg Extension staff in 1944. These agents gave demonstrations on the use of foods to replace meats. There was also a lot of sewing for the Red Cross and rolling of bandages, and dressings. Economy was necessary and demonstrations were given on remodeling and making over old clothes.

Mrs. Minnie Brown, Negro home agent, worked in Mecklenburg in 1947 and later moved on to the state Extension office. Mrs. J. C. Berryhill led 17 clubs in the county through her leadership as council president. She was one of three from Mecklenburg who went on to serve as state council president.

In 1960, Miss Kathleen Nelson came to Mecklenburg County from South Carolina as home economics Extension agent, moving on to district agent in 1967. In 1962, the council published the Cookbook, *Foods We Remember*, and subsequently sold close to 10,000 copies.

Mrs. Jo Ann Hodge replaced Miss Maude Middleton as home agent. Miss Middleton had served Mecklenburg as home agent for 15 years. Alice Bell came to Charlotte in 1965 presenting a charm school which was sponsored by the Extension homemakers council.

Through the years, Extension homemakers had mastered many home economics skills and crafts. In an effort to share these with others, the first home economics skills and crafts fair was held in 1968. This was so successful that it was repeated again in 1969 and proved twice as successful as the first.

Organizations Merge

1965-66 marked the merging of two home demonstration club organizations, the Negro

and the white, into one county organization. The name of the home demonstration clubs became Extension homemaker clubs.

Outstanding events held by Extension homemakers in the early 1970's were the crafts fair at the Charlottetown Mall, tasters' luncheon, and sew-a-thon demonstration and exhibition event at the civic center.

In 1975, the Extension Service moved into new facilities on Billingsley Road. Extension members were pleased that their letters to the commissioners made it possible to have leader training and other meetings in adequate facilities, and a new auditorium and demonstration kitchen.

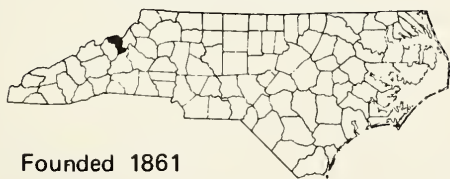
The bicentennial publication of *Foods We Remember II* was a big success. In four years, there were three printings with 12,000 cookbooks offered for sale. In 1977, the outstanding project was making "Learning Cubes." Approximately 40 cubes were made to give to day care centers and kindergartens.

Kathryn Miller was recipient of a state A & P Leadership Award in 1978. Rachel Overcash Morrison resigned after 6 years of outstanding service to Extension homemakers and the population of Mecklenburg County, particularly in foods and nutrition.

The first scholarship from a fund started in 1978 was awarded to Steve Arnold, son of Mrs. Phyllis Arnold of Morningstar Association.

Starting a new decade, the 1980's, Fran Hughes, a Dilworth E.H. member, was recognized as State Mother of the Year. Mecklenburg Extension homemakers membership totaled 895 in 44 associations and is growing.

Mitchell



Founded 1861

The first effort to secure an Extension home economics agent for Mitchell County was in 1936. J. C. Lynn, agricultural agent, appeared before the Spruce Pine Women's Club to ask their support in obtaining a home economics

agent for the county. Apparently this meeting started a move toward securing this service for the women.

There is no record of success from this first effort, so in 1938, another attempt was made. The late Mrs. S. T. Henry, long-time editor of the local newspaper, the *Tri-County News*, met with the county commissioners relative to the delay in employment of an Extension home economics agent. The commissioners stated that the budget for the year had already been approved and that no funds were available to supplement the salary of this per-



Mitchell County homemakers dye fabrics at the 1951 state fair in Raleigh.

son. Undaunted, the women started a fund for this purpose.

In August, 1943, a Mrs. Rowe, district home economics agent from the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service in Raleigh, met with the Mitchell County women, and interviewed a prospective agent. For some reason this person did not accept the opening. At the October 1943 meeting of the Women's Club, it was reported that there was \$276 in the club treasury to supplement the salary of a home demonstration agent when a suitable one could be found.

First Agent Resigns

On January 17, 1944, Miss Elleighfare Amason accepted the position but resigned at the end of one month to accept work with the American Red Cross. From May 12, 1944 to July 1, 1944, Miss Rose Elwood Bryan, state agent from Raleigh, worked in the county. It was through the efforts of Miss Bryan that home demonstration work was established in Mitchell County.

Miss Margaret Perry (now Campbell) came to the county as agent on July 1, 1944. She launched a membership drive and established home demonstration clubs in all sections of the county. Two clubs that were established at this time are still active. They are Grassy Creek and Penland.

Home Agents Listed

Agents employed in the county since the beginning of home demonstration work (now called Extension homemakers clubs) were as follows:

Miss Elleighfare Amason (loaned from Avery County, stayed with Mrs. A. Frank Arnold to organize work in Mitchell County)—Jan. 17, 1944-Feb. 15, 1944; Miss Rose Ellwood Bryan, state agent at large—May 12, 1944-July 1, 1944; Miss Margaret Perry (now Campbell), first regular home agent—July 1, 1944-June, 1945; Miss Maude L. Searcy—Aug. 1, 1945-Aug. 31, 1947; Miss Izola F. Williams—Dec. 1, 1948-Sept. 15, 1949; Mrs. Mary M. Deyton—Oct. 1949-April, 1952; Miss Wanda Sams (now Winecoff)—June, 1952-Dec. 1952; Mrs. Sue B. Dale—Jan. 1953-Nov. 1954; Miss Marguerite Shook—Jan. 15, 1955-Nov. 30, 1956; Mrs. Mary M. Deyton—Jan. 1, 1957-Nov. 1960; and Mrs. Lois P. Williams—Dec. 1, 1960.

Council Presidents

The county council of home demonstration clubs must have been organized from the beginning, as Mrs. Javine Hughes who now lives in Bakersville, NC is reported to have been the first county council president. She served from 1944-1949.

Presidents and years of service follow:

Mrs. Javine Hughes, 1944-1949; Mrs. Ben Robinson, 1950-1951; Mrs. C. S. Dale, 1952-1953; Mrs. Fred S. Kelley (Mrs. James Berry), 1954-1955; Mrs. R. B. Phillips, 1956-1957; Mrs. A. D. Harrell, 1958-1959; Mrs. Charles Foster (Mrs. Earl Young), 1960-1961; Mrs. Clifton Buchanan, 1962-1963; Mrs. Edward Ballew, 1964-1965; Mrs. E. M. Singleton (deceased), 1966-1967; Mrs. Walter Woody, 1968-1969; Mrs. T. R. Burleson, 1970-1971; Mrs. J. C. Hollifield, 1972-1973; Mrs. Herman Cornett, 1974-1975; Mrs. Earl Troutman, 1976-1977; Mrs. John Swann, 1978-1979; and Mrs. Craig Jenkins, 1980-1981.

The rewards have been many and there have been many "firsts" as a result of an Extension homemakers leadership program in Mitchell County. Two club members have served as district president within the past 10 years. They are Mrs. J. C. Hollifield and Mrs. Herman Cornett. These two ladies have also received the coveted A & P Leadership Award for outstanding leadership at their annual state Extension homemakers meeting.

Two young homemakers club members, Mrs. L. C. Burnette and Mrs. Roger Hinshaw, have received the young scholarship awards from the state organization to attend state council meeting.

There have been representatives also from Mitchell County to attend and participate in both the state and national citizenship seminars. Mrs. Earl Troutman, who also served as county council president, attended some of these in which she took an active part in the 1960's.

Mitchell County is proud that Mrs. Herman Cornett is a member of the 1980 executive board of the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, Inc. Mrs. Cornett is corresponding secretary and is responsible for compiling this historical record of the work of the N. C. Extension homemakers.

Mrs. Hollifield Outstanding

Mrs. J. C. Hollifield, who was county council president, district president, and a delegate to the meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World in Nairobi, Kenya, has been secretary of the American Red Cross in Spruce Pine for eight years.

Mrs. A. D. Harrell who was very active in all phases of Extension homemakers work at one time and was county council president

from 1958-1959 is today insurance agency manager for the Farm Bureau.

Many club members or previous club members serving as 4-H or other community leaders today received their leadership training through the Extension homemakers organization. For example, on June 24, 1980 Mrs. Ellis Whitson of Mitchell County received an award at the western district 4-H activity day in Hendersonville for being an outstanding 4-H leader for nine years. Mrs. Whitson's first venture in leadership was as a foods leader in the Red Hill Extension homemakers club.

Mitchell County Extension homemakers club members have not only been increasing their leadership and homemaking skills but have contributed many long hours to civic projects. These include: collecting postage stamps and "pennies for friendship" for the needy children of the world; saving foil, glass bottles, and aluminum cans to send overseas or for recycling; baking and serving for the blood-mobile canteen; donating books and money to the library; helping with the community, heart, cancer and polio fund drives; and helping with "Operation Santa Claus" for Broughton Hospital. A Christmas luncheon for some of the patients of Broughton has been served on several occasions. Meals have also been served to the "Over Mountain Men" marchers each fall.

500 View 'Handmades'

For the last 5 years the Mitchell County Extension homemakers clubs have had an annual "homemakers handmades" sale and exhibit. Approximately 500 persons viewed this display in August 1980. This sale is held Wednesday and Thursday the first week of August at Geneva Hall, Little Switzerland.

The annual Extension homemakers achievement day is held the first of October. Awards are presented to outstanding clubs for their achievements. A keynote speaker is employed and each club, of which there are ten in the county, has an exhibit highlighting some of its accomplishments for the year. The attendance at this annual event has grown from about 70 in 1960 to 175 today.

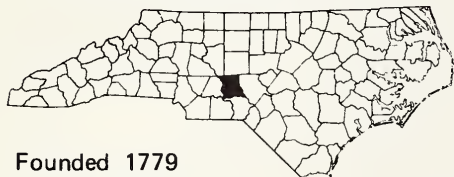
Mitchell County Extension homemakers clubs all have their club names hand-crafted in various needlework patterns which they use at all exhibits, fairs and achievement days.

This was done at the suggestion of Mrs. Ronald Propst, who in 1976 said, "I don't think we Extension homemakers should use posters. We are too creative for that."

Two club members, Mrs. J. C. Hollifield and

Mrs. Mildred McEwen, have articles included in the book *I Remember When* published by the state education committee of the N. C. Extension Homemakers Association.

Montgomery



Founded 1779

Agricultural Extension work began in Montgomery County in 1912. A county agent was appointed to help improve agricultural conditions by working with farm families.

In 1915 some of the ladies appealed to the county agent for help in getting home demonstration work started in the county. He and others used their influence with the county commissioners to make an appropriation for that purpose. In February 1916 an appropriation of \$100 was made by the county for four months' services. The federal government matched the fund and Mrs. Otelia E. Harris was appointed home agent, receiving the salary of \$50 per month.

The principal objective of home demonstration work in the county was to interest girls and women in growing vegetables and fruit and conserving them according to correct methods for home use and commercial markets. Mrs. Harris traveled with a horse and buggy to visit farm homes. She encouraged girls to grow 1/10 acre gardens and to conserve what was produced in these gardens.

Some of the leading county businesses gave good premiums for superior work which was a strong incentive. Grocery stores were very cooperative in buying surplus products packed in tin cans. Some of the girls obtained sufficient cash from the products of their gardens to aid greatly in defraying their expenses in school.

The home agent taught the farm women to sew and they made numerous aprons and caps. The patterns of the aprons and caps were sent out by the state home demonstration agent, Dr. Jane S. McKimmon.

Canning Demonstrations Popular

In 1917, it became quite popular to attend canning demonstrations which were considered to be a real social event. The county exhibit at the state fair was considered one of the best. Governor and Mrs. Bickett purchased several jars of school girls' products and paid a liberal price for them.

In 1918, Miss Lillian Cole served as home agent for less than a year because the county appropriation ran out.

In the summer of 1934, Mrs. S. R. Cusick was assigned to Montgomery County to do emergency relief work during the canning season. As a result of the food conservation work and the interest of the women in the home demonstration program, the work became permanent in September. The board of county commissioners appropriated \$1,000 a year for this work, and the emergency agent took over as a full-time agent on October 1.

The emergency home agent had the assistance of five paid leaders during the canning season. These leaders were trained at a canning school at which time the county was divided into areas and a leader designated for each area. These leaders reached 23 communities, visiting homes and having group meetings.

When home demonstration work was made permanent it was easy to organize the county communities into clubs since the people were already accustomed to meeting in groups for canning. Mrs. Cusick organized 11 clubs in the communities. Members report that their dues were 25¢ then.

Mrs. Cusick resigned in 1935 and was succeeded by Miss Martha McKinnon who served until 1970. The year 1936 saw the construction of the county agricultural building to be devoted entirely to Extension work.

15 Clubs by 1940

By 1940, Miss McKinnon had increased the number of clubs from 11 to 15. The home

agent's program has included work in home beautification, foods and nutrition, food conservation, house furnishings, home management, home gardens, home poultry, home dairy, parent education, health and recreation. There were eight equipped or partially equipped club rooms in the county and the other seven clubs met in homes. Early achievement days were held in the county courthouse and members brought canned food products to be judged.

As a result of involvement in home demonstration clubs there was a considerable improvement in the involvement of women in their communities.

During part of this time the home agent worked with prisoners at Troy prison camp, teaching them how to can. One year they had a terrific crop of beets and the prisoners got "sick" of canning them.

Some of the programs given at home demonstration club meetings included the following: how to iron a man's shirt, how to make crack filler paste for hardwood floors, making good cornbread better and all facets of homemaking skills such as canning, freezing, etc.

They had "good English games" at every club meeting to help the women learn English grammar. To learn parliamentary procedure, members participated in skits showing the correct way and the incorrect way to conduct a meeting.

In 1954, Mrs. C. W. (Mary Wright) Martin attended the National Home Demonstration Council meeting in Washington, D. C. She was district president at the time. One of the speakers was Norman Vincent Peele and the governor of Maryland introduced him. She visited the German Embassy and was served white wine and cookies there. The German attache, Mr. Schlange, borrowed Mrs. Martin's program to hold while he spoke because he had to have something in his hands when speaking.

For 17½ years after she came to work, Martha McKinnon Harris was the only home economics agent in the county. In 1955 Jean M. Hubbard came to work as assistant home agent. Since that time there have been two agents in the county with home economics responsibility.

In 1970 Martha Harris retired and was succeeded by Ann Yarborough. The Extension homemakers organization continued to grow although more women were joining the work force and were unable to participate in organized clubs.

In 1972, the Extension homemakers held their first tastin' party which was a fund-raising as well as publicity event. The best recipes of Extension homemakers across the county were compiled into a cookbook which was sold with samples of each recipe. These tastin' parties were also held in 1975 and 1977.

1976 was a very busy year in Montgomery County. A history of Extension homemakers and a membership list was buried in a time capsule in Star. As a community project, the Extension homemakers began compiling a resource directory which was finally printed and distributed to every home in the county in 1979.

During 1976, the Extension homemakers also furnished a room for Girls' Haven near Asheboro.

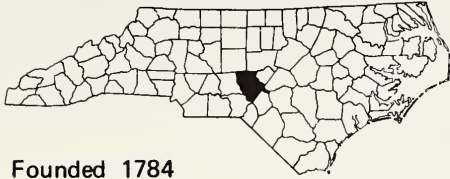
Some agents hold a position which is part home economics and part 4-H. In 1974 Millie Cherry came to work in this position. In 1976 she married and became Millie C. Bruton. She spends part of her time with programs and leader training sessions for Extension homemakers in human development and family resource management.

In 1977 Ann Yarborough resigned and was succeeded by Susan Carroll. In 1978 she married and became Susan C. Hamilton. She has organized two new Extension homemakers clubs since coming to the county.

In 1979 Mrs. Grace Massey of Star served as district Extension homemakers president. On March 30 of that year the Extension homemakers district meeting was held at East Montgomery High School in Biscoe. Mrs. Massey organized the meeting and presided during the day. The theme was "The Future Is In Our Hands." The keynote speaker was Dr. T. C. Blalock, director of the Agricultural Extension Service. That was his first talk to an extension homemakers group as director. At the afternoon session members attended workshops related to family life.

In 1980 there are 123 Extension homemakers members in Montgomery County.

Moore



Founded 1784

The Extension homemakers clubs of North Carolina are celebrating their 60th anniversary (1980). White clubs have been organized for 60 years and black clubs for 40. County records show that in 1912 the county board of education was instructed to arrange for a "Tomato club." The county commissioners were to be asked for \$75 to duplicate the sum appropriated by the general education board for this work and, if the commissioners could not comply, to raise \$75 by popular subscription.

From 1912 until 1928 the records are very scant concerning home demonstration work. The records do show salaries appropriated for the work each year and a great deal of interest in and need for the program because of World War I.

The first narrative report was written by Mrs. W. L. Ryals in 1928. She stated that "the lower half of the county is quite progressive with most of the schools consolidated and

there are a number of small towns. The upper half is thinly settled, has a number of very small schools, and people are more primitive in their manner of living."

In organizing clubs, plans were made to give each section of the county an equal opportunity to form clubs in each of the nine townships of the county. Seven women's clubs with an enrollment of 172 and ten girl's clubs with an enrollment of 164 were organized.

In 1928 an effort was made, before organizing, to get a representative from each of the various communities to meet in the agent's office to help plan work for the county. Very few people came, but prospects were favorable.

First Council in 1929

In 1929 the first county council was organized. The officers elected were: president, Mrs. M. C. McDonald, West End; vice president, Mrs. D. A. McLaughlin, Vass; secretary, Mrs. W. J. Harrington, Glendon.

During 1929 the first achievement day program was held and county camps were planned for the club women and the 4-H girls. Short courses were started in Raleigh. More women were becoming involved in club work and assuming leadership roles. A curb market was established which proved to be an asset to families during the depression years. Areas of



In 1930, Mrs. Carl Gullledge planted 28 varieties of vegetables in her Moore County garden.

homemaking, such as clothing, family food supply, home beautification, home management, family life, housing and furnishings, arts and crafts were emphasized. The depression brought on better cooperation and understanding among county agencies.

Through home demonstration work the latest research findings have been made available. This has meant that many people who did not get a complete education had the opportunity of learning through organized clubs. The first home demonstration work was started for farm women but today the services of the Agricultural Extension Service are for everyone. Although the basic home economics courses are still taught, Extension homemakers clubs now participate in civic affairs, health drives, leadership roles, citizenship roles and in fields of art.

Names, Titles Change

There have been name changes in titles of agents and clubs. From 1912 to 1915 the worker was called a collaborator; from 1915 to 1966 a home demonstration agent; and from 1966 until present a home economics Extension agent. The clubs were first called "Tomato clubs," then "home demonstration clubs" and at present "Extension homemakers clubs." No matter what the worker was called or what the club was called the purpose remained the same, "to help the homemaker help herself and her family through improving her skills of homemaking by following recommended procedures found through research."

The following is a listing of the clubs that have been organized in Moore County since 1912: *Black Clubs*—Carthage, Cloverettes, Eagle Springs, Ebony, Jackson Springs, Lincoln Park, Mount Zion, New Bensalem, New Zion, Oakdale, Sandspur Extenders, Southern Pines, Sun Flower, Togetherness, and Vass. *White Clubs*—Bethlehem, Cameron, Cranes Creek, Deep River, Eagle, Eastwood, Eureka, Glendon, Hearthfire, Hemp, High-Falls, (Sunshine), Holly Grove, Jean's Dream, Jackson Springs, (Hofamco) Lakeview, Little River I, Little River II, Manly (Southern Pines), Mount Holly, Pinebluff, Rainbow Rainbows, Roseland, Sandhills, Signboard, Springfield, Stanton Hill, Town & Country, West End, West Philadelphia, Westmoore.

Club women from Moore County have

always accepted roles of leadership in their local, district and state organizations. They have been recognized throughout the state for their various activities.

The records show the following club members have served as district presidents: Mesdames John Baker, Roy Williams, W. A. Gaines, W. W. Rankin, J. E. Causey, Lee Comer, Lloyd Thomas, and Charles Pope.

The following people have served as county council presidents: Mesdames M. C. McDonald, J. J. Kelly, Lee Comer, Ben Gulledge, Lloyd Thomas, Arthur Gaines, W. J. Harrington, Jr., Redga Thomas, Emory Brown, Sam Hartsell, Lynn Thomas, D. H. Jackson, Paul Cole, Charles Gschwind, W. W. Rankin, J. E. Causey, Charles Pope, A. L. Keith, Sam Blue, William Frye, and W. F. Ritter, Jr.

At present Mrs. Paul Thomas is serving as state cultural arts chairman; Mrs. Laverne Williams as district safety chairman; Mrs. Lloyd Thomas as district family resource management vice chairman; Miss Gladys Causey as district treasurer; and Mrs. W. F. Ritter, Jr., as county council president.

Today there are nine white clubs and four black clubs with an enrollment of 198 members. Mrs. Jean Hubbard and Mrs. Arlene Maness are the current agents offering leadership to these clubs.

Home Economics Agents

The following home economics agents have served Moore County: Mrs. Fannie Reynolds, 1912; Mrs. Ola E. Wells, 1914-15; Miss Grace Bradford, 1915-18; Mrs. Bertha L. Proffitt, 1918-22; Mrs. Nora Bradford, 1922-23; Miss Rose Ellen Bryan, 1924-25; Mrs. W. L. Ryals, 1928-33; Miss Flora McDonald, 1933-63; Mrs. Jean M. Hubbard, 1963 until present.

Assistant agents have been Minnie Frye, 1944; Mrs. Ruth Harrell Muse, 1946-48; Elizabeth Shankle, 1948-50; Barbara Connolly, 1950-51; Mrs. Ruth Muse, 1951-57; Mrs. Nancy Currie, 1957-59; Mrs. Elizabeth Barringer, 1959-60; Miss Mary Braswell, 1960-63; Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, 1963-66; Mrs. Emma Jean Wilson, 1966-70; Mrs. Vickie Sawyer, 1970-71; Karen Eirick, 1972-73; Marsha Mitchell Smith, 1974-75; Mrs. Ellen Allen, 1975-80. The black home economics agents have been: Mrs. Mayme Scurlock, 1922; Miss Freda McNeill, 1953-55; Mrs. Peggy Drew, 1956; Mrs. Ozetta



In 1961 the Cecil McCall family, Richmond County, turned family recreation into a profit making hobby—beeswax candles.

Guye, 1956-60; Mrs. Eva Mae Crawford, 1960-61; Mrs. Amelia Capehart, 1961-69; Mrs. Gwendolyn Reives, 1970-72; Mrs. Estella Gilmore, 1972-73; Mrs. Arlene Maness, 1973 to present.

Leadership Awards

A number of Moore County club women have received the state A & P Leadership Award. They are Mesdames W. W. Rankin, Charles Pope, Paul Thomas, Lloyd Thomas and Miss Mary Emma Thomas.

Local club women of the year have been Mesdames W. W. Rankin, William Carter, Bertha Klouse, W. F. Ritter, Jr., Clinton Campbell, Sam Blue, David Wilson, Lloyd Thomas, Larry Cagle, Gilmer Marion and Miss Mary Emma Thomas.

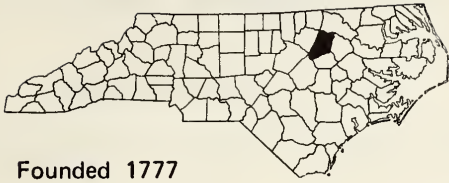
An annual achievement night is held each January for awards to clubs which have excelled in certain projects and programs. Sponsors for this event are Carthage Jaycees, Carolina Banks, Sandhills Production Credit,

Fidelity Banks, Asheboro Coach Company, and First Federal Savings & Loan of Moore County.

Many businesses, individuals, organizations and agencies help to sponsor many educational programs with and for the Extension homemakers. To name a few: Carolina Power & Light Company, McNeill Oil Company, Whitsell Brothers, First Federal Savings & Loan of Moore County, Moore Memorial Hospital, Moore County Schools, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst Hardware, Moore County Bar Association, FCX, Sandhills Production Credit, and various county banks. The list could go on and on.

The newspapers and local radio stations are cooperative in giving Extension homemakers good publicity. This is very much appreciated because it is another tool used to tell the story to others. The county administration supports all the programs. Without this support there would be no Extension homemakers.

Nash



Founded 1777

Nash County was formed in 1777 while the Revolution for freedom was still raging, giving birth to a nation, a state and a county. Nash County rural homemakers had an active part in the making of America. Building the house was traditionally the man's job but creating a home was the woman's. Keeping her family fed and clothed throughout the year was her demanding chore.

For more than 60 years the home demonstration club has played a very influential part in organizing the active and patriotic rural women of Nash County. The club was organized in 1916, with Miss Allie Stribling employed as the first home agent. The second agent employed was Miss Louise Howell and the third was Miss Marian Swain. It was through the untiring efforts of the fourth agent, Mrs. Effie Vines Gordon, that the work grew to rank among the best in the state. Mrs. Gordon began Nash County's home demonstration club curb market in 1923. It was held first in a vacant tobacco warehouse and then in other places during the tobacco season. Through the cooperative efforts of the farm women sellers, W.P.A. and the board of county commissioners, a building was later constructed on a lot in Rocky Mount, donated by the county. The curb market was especially successful in the hard years of the great depression. Some of the bright spots of those early years were "a live at home campaign" and a "mattress program" using surplus cotton and ticking furnished by the government.

Loan Fund Started

In 1939 as a tribute to Mrs. Gordon, the women raised funds and created the "Effie Vines Gordon Loan Fund," which has enabled many rural Nash County girls to get a college education.

By 1940 there were 18 active clubs in the county. World War II came and the women were found to be the best outlet for information. Mrs. Gordon assumed the extra duties of organizing and planning the various war-con-

nected campaigns performed by these club women. Some of these activities were: home nursing and first aid courses; serving as U.S.O. and canteen workers; joining the Red Cross or supporting it folding and packing surgical dressing; selling Victory (War) bonds; participating in the United National Clothing Relief; collecting aluminum for national defense; planting victory gardens and practicing conservation.

Mrs. Gordon retired in 1950 and Miss Ann Mason, now Mrs. L. S. Inscoe, came to lead and direct the work the next 11 years of sometimes more than 30 clubs. Thirty-five agents and associate agents have been employed during these 64 years.

The very first Extension work done in the county was at Sharpsburg in 1914 with the organization of a Tomato club by a borrowed agent, the first agent of Edgecombe County. These women organized a home demonstration club in 1920.

Red Oak Oldest Club

Red Oak had the oldest demonstration club. Demonstrations for women and girls were started in 1912 before there were Extension clubs. Vocational training for boys was started in 1914. Many leaders came from this community and farm school. They built the first club house in the county with the help of the W.P.A. It has served as a community building for many meetings and is now the home of a very active community club. The late Mrs. C. F. McIntyre of Red Oak will always be remembered for her leadership in club work. She was state "Mother of the Year" during her time of service.

Mount Pleasant had the first club room in the county, an extra room in the old school. This club was organized in 1919 with Miss Louise Howell as agent. Bailey was another early club, also beginning in 1919. Chapter members still living are Mrs. Swannie Farmer and Mrs. Carrie Meacomes.

Nutrition was the earliest club demonstration project. Canneries were established throughout the county to aid in food preservation. Home improvement, with emphasis on modernizing kitchens and adding electricity, running water, and utility rooms was also a popular project. Clothing and house furnishings followed.

One of the first club "fun days" was the

June and later, August picnic, where games, food and fellowship were enjoyed. 4-H camp with club women as counselors was another early recreational event. Often all the family attended Camp Leach and Mantol.

A recreation program with the Nash County board of commissioners appropriating \$4,000 and Sears Roebuck Foundation donating \$6,000 was active in the county in the 1940's and 1950's. A training school for a county chorus and church choirs was one of the programs. Nash County was one of 14 counties entered in the WPTF choral awards for home demonstration women in a state contest.

Location for 'Waves of Green'

Nash County was chosen in 1950 by the Dearborn Company as the location for the movie "Waves of Green." A big celebration, with President Truman attending, was held in Nashville. All rural organizations sponsored floats. Miss Ann Mason, our new agent, had a big part in both events.

There were 27 club buildings in the county in 1955.

In the early 1950's a Negro agent was employed. The first Negro home demonstration club was organized December 19, 1951 in Red Oak community, called Rockyland Club. During the months of December and January 1952, 13 clubs were formed with an enrollment of 153 women. Mrs. Lorsenia Murchinson, their first agent, stayed until the end of 1953. Mrs. Margaret Wade, our present agent, followed. Five years later, there were 20 active clubs with an enrollment of 429. Nash County Negroes were named winner of the Clarence Poe "county of the year" award for rural progress in North Carolina during 1955.

A reading program to eradicate illiteracy in Nash County in 1960 was sponsored by the county council of clubs. Twenty-five volunteer members were trained to teach with a beginning enrollment of 75 including six ministers. This very successful program, later taken over by the superintendent of schools, is now a part of the Nash Technical Institute's adult education program.

In the middle 1960's, black and white club

members and agents worked together to effect one combined organization, which has proven to be very successful.

Focus on Better Housing

Better housing has been a major project in our county in the 1970's. In 1968, the first "demonstration house" for low-income families was built as a result of program efforts of the clubs' housing leaders throughout the county. More than 500 additional houses have been built in 12 years.

The club "food festival" in December draws many tasters. The festival featuring favorite recipes of attractive and nutritious dishes submitted by the homemakers throughout the county has been an annual event since 1973.

Our achievement night in 1976, with a bicentennial flavor, was celebrated in our new home—a beautiful, modern, brick, agricultural building in Nashville.

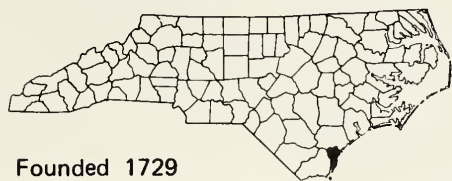
Mrs. Hazel Valentine, an active senior member has compiled and edited an interesting book *I Remember When* of stories of the past written by club members 65 and over. She recently donated \$1,000 to the NCSU library from the sale of the book.

Major emphasis during the later 1970's has been on educational programs to help families save energy and better cope with inflation. Leaders are supportive of the new program concept with three area meetings, eight leaders' meetings, and one agent meeting held in the year. Thus the agents have been able to conduct more special workshops and educational programs. More than 300,000 cancelled stamps were collected for "hungry children's" project.

There are 265 members and 20 clubs in the county council. Many leaders from our county have held district and state offices and served as committee members. Mrs. R. B. Freeman is the new north central district president and also the present state recording secretary.

Some of the communities which do not have Extension homemakers clubs now have organized groups led by those trained through their club work of prior years.

New Hanover



Founded 1729

Extension work in New Hanover County began in 1913 when 13 women in Masonboro Township organized the Women's School Improvement Club. In 1916 another group from the same area organized the United Farm Women of Myrtle Grove Sound Club. The following year a county fair, called "Corn Show," was held at 4th and Castle Streets. The two clubs combined and were organized as a home demonstration club.

Canning clubs and sewing clubs were organized throughout the county, with 4-H and service clubs organizing in the same vicinity. Three canning centers were placed in operation by the relief canning program and were manned by the "trained" club women. The home agent trained them each Friday through demonstrations in the latest methods. Curb markets were opened downtown and "peddling" from door to door was common. Homemakers sold flowers, handmade articles, clothing, canned tomatoes, etc. They sold to institutions (county home) and were responsible for the first hot lunches served in the schools in the county.

Organization of the Negro clubs extends as far back as 1917 with sewing and canning clubs. For a number of years, there was no paid supervision but homemakers continued to help each other on a voluntary basis. About 1940, Miss Keyer became home agent and she emphasized preservation of foods as well as proper planting.

Fight to Stay Alive

During the depression the clubs fought to stay alive. They were forced to prove their worth to the county commissioners before funds could be provided. A petition with a long list of taxpayers was presented at a council meeting and after visiting some clubs, the commissioners were convinced the organization was invaluable.

Beginning in 1949, the homemakers sponsored a float in the azalea parade but this project was abandoned in 1955. Homemakers at-

tended the first-aid classes conducted by "Red Cross" and "adopted" the county home patients and gave bedside care every day.

Following the merger of the two black and white state organizations, the first state president was Mrs. C. M. Foster (1967). We have furnished at least eight district chairmen and/or presidents and four A & P Leadership Award winners—Mrs. J. W. Leeuwenberg, Mrs. C. M. Foster, Mrs. Ollie Smith, and Mrs. Katie McGuire.

Mrs. Pretlow was the first home agent for the county. Others have been Julia C. Rasch, Elizabeth Ragan, Ann Mason, Miss Keyer, Verna Belle Lowery, Mrs. Rebecca L. Hall (retired Feb. 29, 1976), Mrs. Jean Gornto (transferred May 1, 1979), Sandra Barrett Hughes, and Joy Frauson.

Recent Highlights

Some recent highlights of home economics extension members in New Hanover County follow:

1974—A fitting tribute was bestowed upon the Extension homemakers when November 21, 1974 was officially proclaimed EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS DAY by the New Hanover Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Wilmington.

1975—With a new slate of officers on all levels, the year began with 150 members participating in the leadership training workshop on January 29, 1975. The planning and objectives for the year were carefully selected and coordinated to promote good programs and leadership within the clubs.

It was a busy year, with five county-wide workshops, defensive driving classes, quilting bees, four county council meetings, preparation for retirement for Mrs. Hall, and achievement day.

The most outstanding achievement was participation in the annual county fair, which is nothing unusual for this organization. Perhaps it would be correct to state that we are the sole supporters of the fair.

1976—The Bicentennial costumes made by most of the club women were the "dress of the day" for the achievement day in November. "Heritage Crafts to Show and Sell" was the theme. Before the luncheon an address was given by Congressman Charles G. Rose of the 7th District. Exhibited was the traveling

crafts exhibit owned by the Extension homemakers organization.

Collect Bottles

1977—The major concern of the clubs this year was collecting 92,000 cancelled postage stamps to be sold to collectors to raise money for food for Bangladesh. Simultaneously, we began collecting 3,000 plastic medicine bottles that were sent to Tikiti, West Africa. An October educational trip to Williamsburg was a highlight. The November achievement day luncheon featured an international theme with everything from parade of flags and costumes, to the entertainment, decorations, display tables, and the exotic foods.

1978—Transition from agent to leadership training began this year to be supplemented by three area meetings, and a complete reorganization of the Extension homemakers. Mrs. Loyce Thompson was our district president, presiding over leadership district day at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Special county projects included the following: a breast cancer clinic, participation in a countywide health fair, bus trip to the Southern Living Christmas show in Charlotte, celebration of homemakers day with a matinee luncheon. Award winners this year were Ollie Smith with an A & P Leadership Award and Mary Singleton for a sculpture that was a county, district and state winner. It was displayed at the national meeting.

1979—"Let's Soar Higher" was the theme

for this year starting with special recognition of award winners. The A & P Leadership Award went to Mrs. Katie McGuire. District co-chairman for New Hanover County was Gloria Keshler, safety. The county safety report was used as the state report at the national meeting.

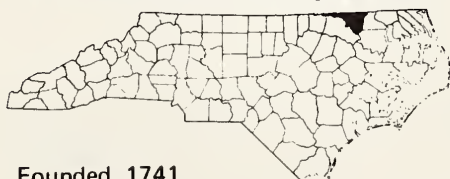
Sheet Fashions

The fund-raising event was a sheet fashion show. The Red Cross benefited from funds used for a baby mannequin for C.P.R. (Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) training. Curtains for bedrooms at the Youth Help Home were made, and participation in the annual tree day and a farmer's market were new this year. Three clubs were organized during the year—Middle Sound, Masonboro Sound and Pine Valley.

1980—An arthritis clinic set up by Miss Flossie Bryan was of great public interest with over 100 persons in attendance. Voter registration resulted in 40 new registered voters. A project of the state was to distribute Teletip to county residents and New Hanover County ranked tenth in the state. A county cultural arts workshop resulted in teaching quilting to young homemakers and raising funds for the County Council.

In 1980, 16 clubs in New Hanover County with a membership of 255; average number attending County Council meetings is 35. Ninety-five is the average attendance at Plan of Work training.

Northampton



Founded 1741

The Northampton County Extension Homemakers Association began in 1916 when Mrs. David Brown was hired to work 3 months during the summer. According to Mrs. Brown, "there was an urgent cry in this state along with several others to conserve all the products possible on the farm by canning, drying, pickling, etc." Mrs. Brown worked during

that summer organizing girls clubs. The girls were asked to plant 1/10 of an acre in tomatoes, beans or both to be canned at the proper time. Canners were purchased along with the glass jars and tin cans. These early clubs of girls and young ladies were known as Tomato clubs. We have no existing record of how many clubs were organized that summer of 1916. But we do know the first of these clubs was located in the Galatia community.

Mrs. Brown's work was a success—so successful that the following year the county appropriated funds for 6 months' work and then the following year the county appropriated funds for a full 12 months.

The Tomato club girls did canning projects

during the summer and cooking and sewing projects in the winter.

Full-time Agent in 1919

Following the employment of a full-time agent (12 months) in 1919, the organization of home demonstration clubs began. Mrs. Sarah M. Padgett was the first full-time agent in Northampton County and during her tenure, four home demonstration clubs were organized. Most of these clubs had formerly been Tomato clubs.

The first of these clubs was located in the Dusty Hill community. There were about 10 charter members. One of the members, Mrs. F. E. Bristow, donated a room above a shop for club meetings. Members were asked to pay 5 cents each month to furnish the room and build a treasury.

During the next 15 years, many other communities followed the Dusty Hill community in organizing a home demonstration club. By 1935, there were 15 home demonstration clubs in Northampton County with over 400 members. Club members in this 15-year period participated in hundreds of demonstrations presented by five different home demonstration agents. Home demonstration club members were not passive participants. They took what they learned from the agents and used it to improve the conditions of families in their communities.

From 1916 to 1919 club women began serving hot chocolate in school lunchrooms. In 1928 club women helped to bring rural electricity to local communities. Agents and club women were so busy with various activities and learning experiences that a secretary was provided for 3 months.

500 Cans of Tomatoes

Canning, cooking and sewing were among the favorite topics of these early pioneers. Mrs. Walter Bryant, a Tomato club member, reported one year that she had canned over 500 cans of tomatoes. She sold all of her canned products that summer with the help of her brother who operated a local grocery store. It soon became apparent that Northampton County club women enjoyed working with their hands. Their club activities expanded from learning about canning, cooking and sewing to repair and refinishing furniture within the home.

In 1936 a new act of Congress established an Extension Service for the nation's black population. Mrs. Fannie Newsome was hired to begin organizing home demonstration clubs for the county's black population. Mrs. Newsome was a very competent, professional woman who loved people. She had an enthusiastic personality—a sense of humor that endeared her to everyone she met. Mrs. Newsome worked hard. During her 8 years as home demonstration agent in Northampton County, 16 clubs were organized with approximately 366 members. In 1939 Mrs. Newsome's annual report indicated that home improvements were the major project. Two hundred thirty-one kitchens were re-arranged, 133 pieces of equipment were made, and 102 walls were improved. Home improvement projects were so numerous that Mrs. Newsome organized a home tour with club members' husbands and family members traveling all over the county to view the completed projects.

From 1943 to 1960 there were three black Extension home economics clubs. Membership grew. The number of clubs increased by one.

Since the early days of tomato clubs and home demonstration clubs many changes have taken place. The organization has experienced periods of growth and recession in number of clubs and number of club members. One thing has remained constant. Home demonstration club members, or as they are now called Extension homemakers, have remained an important arm in the Northampton County Agricultural Extension Service. Over the years they have developed from learners into teachers, and volunteers and leaders of many activities that are important to home, family and community life in Northampton County.

Noteworthy Dates

- 1916—Tomato clubs organized in 10 communities. First club located in Galatia.
- 1918—First home demonstration club organized in Lasker community. One member, Mrs. Walter Bryant still a member.
- 1923—First county council was held with 12 clubs and 190 members on roll.
- 1931—First district federation meeting of the 14th district held in Northampton County with 75 club women from four counties attending.

1932—14 clubs in county and all were paid members of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.

1936—First black home agent hired in county. She organized 16 clubs for black women before leaving to become a district agent in 1943.

1936—Two clubs build clubhouses—Galatia and Holly Grove.

1945—Highest record of clubs and members—37 clubs.

1970—North Carolina Association of Extension Homemakers met in Roanoke Rapids with Northampton County serving as hostess. Mrs. M. R. Parker, state president, presiding.

Noteworthy Persons

Mrs. David H. Brown—first home agent, 1916.

Mrs. Fannie T. Newsome—first black agent, 1936.

Mrs. Goldy Sykes—first president of the State Council of Home Demonstration Clubs in North Carolina 1940-1942. Currently residing in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mrs. Fred Lewis Johnson—first county council president, 1923. Still a club member.

Mrs. Ruth Stancil—president of State Council of Home Demonstration Clubs, 1956-58.

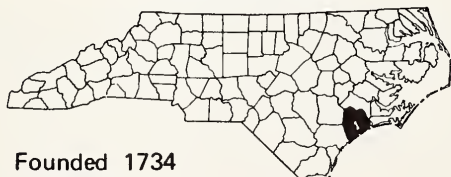
Mrs. M. R. Parker—president, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, Inc., 1970. Delegate to ACWW—Oslo, Norway.

Mrs. Walter Bryant—Tomato club member. Still a club member.

Mrs. T. T. Stephenson—Tomato club member. Still a club member.

Mrs. Mattie Harris—state P.O.W. chairman, cultural arts, textiles and clothing.

Onslow



Founded 1734

Agricultural Extension work began in Onslow County on January 1, 1909 when J. C. Parker was employed as county agent. However, it was not until January 1, 1918 that a home economics agent, Ava Myatt, was employed. For the next 5 years 6 different home agents were employed who worked for only brief periods. When Kate Alexander resigned in December 1923, the position was not filled again until Sallie Brooks was employed in 1929.

During 1929 Sallie Brooks organized 9 different home demonstration clubs. At this time the clubs were not members of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs but 11 women did attend the state federation meeting at State College.

In the early days of club work problems in the home were similar to those of today but they had to be solved in different ways. The women had not yet learned the value of canning tender young vegetables or of allowing only a short time from the vine to the can. The agent had canning bees to assist the ladies in

learning canning techniques. The agent was surprised to learn that the women preferred mixing string beans, lima beans and shelled string beans.

Bread Enrichment

Much emphasis was placed on the enrichment program of breads. The agent stressed the use of whole grain products and their value in the diet. It was reported that men after eating the bread said, "It has husks in it!" The ladies tried to tell their husbands that husks were just as good for humans as they were for animals.

The County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs became members of the state federation in April, 1930. Ten dollars was pledged to the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund and a "Live-At-Home" campaign was inaugurated. Food conservation was the major objective. Many women reported that they didn't have much money, but they had more food than ever before.

4-day Tour for \$10

In 1937 the home demonstration clubs in the county assisted the Jacksonville Womans' Club in building a club house. The house was used for council meetings, leader schools, and demonstrations. In 1937 home demonstration members went on a tour to Washington, D.C.



Onslow County homemakers combine skills and make draperies for the local Extension office.

for 4 days. The total cost for the 4 days excluding food was \$10!

Approximately 452 homes in Onslow County were wired in 1941 through REA. Electricity in the rural homes opened the door of many new conveniences.

The opening of Camp Lejeune Marine Base in 1940 also opened many doors in Onslow County. Numerous cultures began to melt into the lives of our ladies and the marine base provided many job opportunities for our agricultural families.

The home demonstration ladies became interested in their rapidly growing communities and assisted with many community endeavors such as furnishing a room at the county hospital, assisting with fund raising drives for a library auditorium, and furnishing a learn-

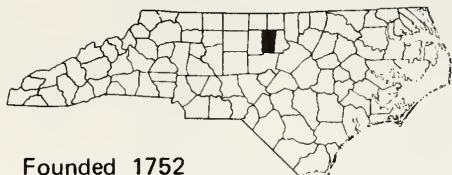
ing center at the agricultural building.

Their efforts were far-reaching when a whole building, the Faison building, was completely decorated for Onslow County patients at Cherry Hospital.

Home demonstration clubs became Extension homemakers clubs. Their name changed, their objectives did not! The ladies believe and practice the old adage, "When you educate a man, you educate an individual; when you educate a woman, you educate a family!"

Today, after 60 years we have 21 Extension homemakers clubs and 334 paid members. The clubs' influence reaches all corners of the world as many wives of our servicemen travel with their husbands. The seed planted in 1930 is in flower today!

Orange



Way back in the 1930's when the economy hit rock bottom, home demonstration clubs were a "shot in the arm" for the homes, especially those in the country.

The homemakers of Orange County originally organized as home demonstration clubs, and Calvander and Caldwell were two of the first ones in 1934. These two clubs were followed by Antioch, Aycock, Fairfield, and White Cross clubs in 1935 and Gravelly Hill and Orange Grove I in 1936.

Caldwell Helps Schools

The Caldwell home demonstration club was instrumental in doing things for the schools. They had plays, harvest festivals, brunswick stew suppers, and helped to beautify the school grounds by planting shrubbery. The club donated cooking utensils to the cafeteria. It helped get telephones in the community. (Incidentally, Caldwell won first place in the community development program of the North Central Area Development Association during the 1960's. This particular program was co-sponsored by their club.)

During the 1940's 9 new clubs were formed: Jordan Grove, Ridge Road, St. Mary's I, Sartin, and Sunnyside in 1941; Carr and St. Mary's II in 1942; Cedar Grove in 1945; and the Bethlehem club in 1949. Only two clubs were formed in the 1950's—Buckhorn in 1954 and Mars Hill in 1956. A few more clubs were added in the 1960's: Grover, 1960; Orange Grove II in 1963; West Hills in 1965; Eno in 1966; and Friendly Acres in 1967. Five new clubs were organized in the 1970's: Shady Oaks, 1970; Cedar Ridge, 1973; New Hope, 1975; Carolina Forest, 1976; Cedar Cliff, 1977. Two new clubs were formed in 1980: Bluffs of Eno and Town and Country.

Some events and accomplishments over the years included the following:

Mrs. Henry Walker, first vice-president of the state organization in 1965 and a member of St. Mary's I, entertained Madam Oroti Dutt, president of the Association of Country

Women of the World and arranged a statewide meeting at Orange High School, with Madam Dutt as guest speaker. This afforded an opportunity to all club women to glimpse our world affiliates.

The year 1965 was also the year the blacks and whites merged their separate organizations into one. This situation called for tact, diplomacy, and patience. A creditable plan resulted which carried us smoothly over what could have been a stormy time. This was the year Mrs. Henry Walker was president of the state organization, and she had the privilege of presenting the seed-money check of \$100,000 for the Jane S. McKimmon Continuing Education Center. Some of the ladies explained how they scrounged and saved money by selling eggs, butter, etc. so that they could donate to this fund.

The following Orange County members have served as state and district presidents: Mrs. Henry Walker, state president in 1966; Mrs. Lawrence Vanhook, district president in 1968; Mrs. Leroy Wilson, district president in 1977; and Mrs. John H. Jeffries, district treasurer in 1979.

Leadership Award Winners

The A & P Leadership Award winners in Orange County have included Mrs. Henry Walker, 1965; Mrs. Lawrence Vanhook, 1979; Mrs. Clyde Roberts, 1972; Mrs. Leroy Wilson, 1973; and Mrs. M. C. Burt, Sr., 1976.

According to a report from one of our clubs, we have "been furnished without stint by six excellent Extension agents": Mrs. Kathryn H. Hamrick, Miss Ruth Thompson, Mrs. Betsy Meldau, Miss Jessie Trowbridge, and Mrs. Bonnie Davis and Mrs. Fonrose Johnson Gore currently serving.

Mrs. Gert Rippy of the Friendly Acres club says that "As a recipient of some of the 'larnin' I can vouch for the ones now serving, as well as Mrs. Betsy Meldau who very kindly agreed to come to my home when I was attempting to carry out a dream I had had for years to belong to a 'home demonstration club.' I visited the 'agriculture office' and told them what I was interested in, and Mrs. Meldau very kindly agreed to come to my home and speak with several of my neighbors and inform us of the work of the Extension department. As a result, the Friendly Acres club was formed in 1967, and while we are few

in number, we have run the gamut of everything the agents have tried to teach us. Two members of this club have perfect attendance for more than 13 years.

"After Mrs. Meldau had 'sot' us down and taught us for about 90 minutes, we agreed we'd form our club. It was some time before we agreed on a name, but finally 'Friendly Acres' was picked. One of the first meetings after this one was extremely helpful in cementing our thoughts about our club and knowing that we had done the right thing. Calvander club had invited us to their meeting, where the order of that meeting was a fashion show. That was a plus for us—we knew we had been hooked into going to work for our county." Homemakers have worked in areas almost too numerous to mention.

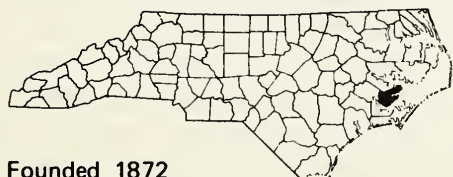
Homemakers have worked in cemeteries and have cleaned up trash piles. They have auctions every December and use the money to help bedridden patients, 4-H boys and girls, the rescue squad, and friends and neighbors who are bedridden.

Some other services we've rendered in-

cluded Christmas gifts for the Murdock Center and Umstead Hospital patients at Butner; stamps to feed the hungry of numerous places in the world; cancer dressings and pillows for mastectomy patients; and volunteer work for the Red Cross bloodmobile.

Orange County homemakers are high in praise of Extension agents who have assisted them over the years. As one homemaker said: "They have taught us how to refinish furniture, refurbish picture frames, chair caning, crocheting, knitting, tatting, clothing and tailoring, tole painting, crewel embroidery, house and house furnishings and how to make our homes more beautiful." Some other topics mentioned were draperies, window shades, quilting, beautification of our kitchens, mail boxes, yards, drying flowers, arranging flowers, cake decorating, gardening, health, nutrition, dairy products and their uses, freezing and canning vegetables, energy saving, safety, health, wills and rules and regulations about how to take care of ourselves if we become widowed.

Pamlico



Founded 1872

Located in the extreme coastal plain of North Carolina, Pamlico County is approximately 350 square miles in area. Almost 40 percent of the county is under water. Farming and fishing are the two major occupations. The needs and desires of the rural and town people brought about the organization of the first "Home Demonstration Federation" in the county in September 1928.

Mrs. Bessie C. Moore was the first home demonstration agent in the county. During the first 4 months several clubs were organized with 72 members becoming involved. The farm agent at that time was R. W. Galphin who was helpful with the new program and cooperated in every regard.

10 Clubs in 1929

During 1929 there were 10 clubs with a membership of 275. The first county council was organized on May 24, 1929 and the clubs adopted the name of "home demonstration clubs." Their meetings were to be held quarterly. At the time clothing and food projects were the topics covered at leader schools. The "Better Homes Campaign" that year contributed much to the beautification of the county.

In 1930 there were 436 women involved in home demonstration programs in Pamlico County. Six of the clubs went to the state federation meeting in Raleigh that year.

In 1931 a flower show was held in the spring. Twenty women went to short courses. Clothing and foods were again very important topics this year.

There were 14 clubs in 1933. Over 641 women were involved that year. The council was very active in relief work. Almost 40,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables were canned by relief families. Club women in Whortons-

ville contributed to a "community chest" by making bed linen, night clothes and other garments, or getting together articles needed in a sick room. Contents of the chest were to be loaned to any member of the community when needed and returned properly laundered.

By 1934 there were 15 clubs. Home demonstration had reached 1,250 people in 24 communities in the county. Thirteen women attended "Farm and Home Week" in Raleigh. Forty-four women and girls attended the first county encampment on the Neuse River in July. Over 200 people attended the annual federation achievement day. Some 137,655 quarts of fruits, vegetables and meats were preserved at a value of \$20,638.25.

1,250 People Reached

Extension work seemed to be fulfilling the needs of the county people from year to year. In 1935 there were 724 members in the 15 clubs. Some 1,250 people in the county were reached by some phase of home demonstration work. The major project that year was in clothing. Women and 4-H federation and achievement days were held jointly with a large attendance.

Mrs. Elsie Jones and Mrs. Bela Carawan of the Mesic club walked 3 miles and then rode 17 miles in an open truck to attend one of these meetings. The temperature at the time was only 12 degrees! Such loyalty indicated the interest and success in these meetings. On October 7 the county commissioners met and voted to furnish the site and \$450 for supervision and construction of an agricultural building for the offices of the farm and home agent. These fine men made this possible: J. Manson McClees, B. P. Paul, J. A. West, and W. L. Barnett. This was a W.P.A. project.

By 1938 there was an agricultural building equipped with office furniture, kitchen equipment, piano, chairs, and over 100 pieces of shrubbery planted outside. This did much to bring forth the cooperation and loyalty of the citizens of Pamlico County. The county won first place in the state fall and winter garden contest and received \$20.

Mrs. Everett J. Harris was elected president of the district that year.

Throughout the forthcoming years major projects were continued in foods and nutrition, clothing, house furnishings, gardening, poultry and home improvement. Year after

year the quality of life improved for many people all over Pamlico County. These ladies were diligent in carrying on their work which continued through the war years.

Clubs Change Name

In 1967 the home demonstration clubs all over the state became known as Extension homemakers clubs. Their work continued very well, but there was a decline in the number of women involved.

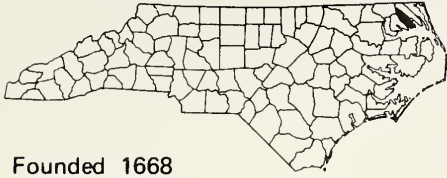
The 1970's dawned and many fascinating ideas were brought to light. Fashions had changed drastically since the 1930's. Food preparation had become a pleasure with modern conveniences making for ease in cooking. Sewing was also easier with electric machines that would make buttonholes without much figuring by the seamstress. Crafts added joy to many lives and also supplemented county residents' income. Macrame, wood carving, pine needle crafts, cross-stitch, and pottery were all of interest. Inflation and money management had become big problems. Club women celebrated the bicentennial by going all out with authentic looking costumes of that era. Their celebration was echoed across the nation.

The Extension homemakers collected stamps to help provide milk to needy people overseas; raised funds to help neighbors who had suffered the loss of homes due to fire; supported their community fire departments financially by bake sales and raffling off handmade quilts; provided Christmas joy to those less fortunate than themselves by sharing their love and concern and fruits, baked goodies and small gifts.

Several Pamlico County Extension homemakers have been a part of this worthy organization for 40 years or more. They tell others that they couldn't have been a part of anything more worthwhile since they not only learned numerous talents but were able to share them with others.

As the 1980's begin we find our numbers have grown considerably smaller, but the entire organization is stressing the buildup of its membership. The program is still as important as it was when home demonstration clubs started in Pamlico County in 1928. We continue to strive to improve the quality of life and intend to proceed "onward, ever onward."

Pasquotank



Founded 1668

The first Extension homemakers clubs in Pasquotank County were organized in 1916. At that time they were called "home demonstration" clubs.

It all began in 1913 when a group composed of 20 girls from various parts of the county met at the home of Miss Marcia Albertson, Pasquotank County's pioneer home agent, each Saturday afternoon for instruction in the art of homemaking, food production practices, food conservation techniques and marketing of surplus products. She received no salary. These 20 girls were each expected to plant and tend 1/10 of an acre of tomatoes and can the supply grown along with surplus products of the family garden. Bringing these untrained girls through a canning season and teaching about standard quality, weight, and sterilization was no easy task.

Quite naturally, mothers of these canning club girls became interested in their projects and, in some instances, mother-daughter partnerships were formed. This was the beginning of an adult education movement for farm women in Pasquotank County which has developed into year-round clubs where every phase of homemaking and family living is studied. Upon the request of interested mothers, the first adult club was organized by Miss Marcia in the Dry Ridge section of the county during 1916. Also during that year eight other clubs were established.

When the clubs were first organized there was no printed material. Each woman carried paper and pencil to write down recipes and directions as they were read aloud.

In 1921 Pasquotank County organized one of the first two curb markets in the state, offering a variety of farm produce and home-cooked foods. Women were in business! The curb market eventually closed in 1974.

1975-1976 Highlights

1975—Pasquotank County Extension homemakers were in charge of food at the Albemarle craftsman's fair. An estate plan-

ning workshop was held this year. One club sponsored a countywide garage sale with proceeds going to Northeastern High School athletic complex. They raised over \$500.

1976—County membership totaled 321. This was the year of our big bicentennial celebration. A replica of the liberty bell and accompanying program was enjoyed by local school children and general public. Many members attended wearing bicentennial costumes that they had made in the bicentennial costume workshop. One club presented a bicentennial musical program for flag day on courthouse lawn. Pasquotank County Extension homemakers manned an information booth entitled "Ask Us" at the craftsman's fair and also sponsored a stand for selling homemade ice cream.

A College of the Albemarle scholarship was presented to the son or daughter of an Extension homemaker. The international committee helped with a dinner given for a French student and 4-H'ers. One hundred and fifty attended this dinner. Hostesses were furnished for the arts & crafts show for senior citizens. Pasquotank county as well as Miss Jemima James received an honor as North Carolina won first place nationally for the international report which Miss James compiled as state international chairman.

Mid-70's Highlights

1977—There were 18 clubs with 284 members in Pasquotank County in 1977. One club spent 248 hours gathering lists of 2,000 people in the area and addressing, filling and sealing envelopes for grand opening of a bank in Elizabeth City. There were 198 active members giving more than 2,735 hours toward the lap-reader project. The cultural arts committee was instrumental in getting the North Carolina Symphony woodwind quintet to present two special performances for over 100 preschool children. A lap reader article was featured in the fall edition of "The Tar Heel Homemaker." Sixteen clubs promoted and helped sponsor Museum of the Albemarle antique show and sale tea room. Some 800 people were served.

We helped to sponsor and furnished refreshments for the battered woman syndrome workshop with 400 in attendance. Several clubs sponsored 4-H groups and Brownie troops. We increased participation in blood-



Business should be brisk for the sellers at this curb market in Pasquotank County.

mobile by supplying man hours, as well as food for donors. The "Hearing Aid Loan Bank" project, started in 1977, has gone over with a bang. Dreams rarely come true, but for some Pasquotank County residents their dream of better hearing is now a reality. We collected 9,089 stamps for hungry children. A luncheon was given to honor our county commissioners and the Mother-of-the-Year. Five classes were held on first aid. Barbara Fletcher, past county council president, received state and national awards as she was recipient of an A & P Leadership Award and was also a delegate to the NEHC convention in Missouri. She also won honors for her cultural arts report.

Recent Highlights

1978—One member served as a panelist on the Governor's conference in Winston-Salem on "Raising a New Generation in North Carolina." One club had a chorus and presented musical programs to civic groups, churches, nursing homes, etc. Approximately 6,500 hours were spent by 96 members reading to children. One club provided a community park in its area to keep children off the streets. Forty-five homemaker members worked in the annual Albemarle Craftsman's Fair as hostesses, craftsmen or some other capacity. A county-wide poster contest for grades K-6 on citizenship was sponsored. A seminar was held on separation and divorce with the Ex-

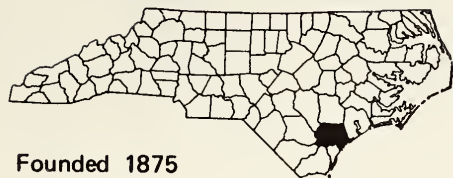
tension homemakers serving as a co-sponsor.

Many long hours were spent on the revision of the popular 1950 edition of Pasquotank County Extension homemakers cookbook. This was the second year we provided the Colonial Tea room for the Museum of the Albemarle's antique show and sale. The home economics committee also helped plan and present the 4-H and adult dress revue and awarded \$25 to the overall 4-H winner to go to clothing camp. The music and cultural arts committee sponsored a lap reading seminar in April 1978. One member had a 30-minute interview on local radio station to discuss lap reading. In 1978 the international committee was responsible for collecting 177,555 stamps for international program.

1979—There were 16 clubs and 268 members. Pasquotank Extension homemakers now sponsor a full College of the Albemarle scholarship. We participated in "Swim Across" by providing baked goods and setting up concession to help raise money for the Red Cross. Many clubs made favors for nursing homes and hospital.

1980—An exhibit was prepared for district meeting on "Decorating For Energy Conservation." Homemakers helped with "Swim Across for Red Cross" again this year and worked with involvement council trying to get a central emergency number. They also honored commissioners at a luncheon prepared by homemakers.

Pender



Founded 1875

In 1914 the Rev. W. S. Key, Shelter Neck Unitarian Church, worked closely with N.C. State College in promoting Tomato clubs in Pender County. He was also responsible for helping to get Extension work introduced in Pender County.

In 1919, a county council for organized women's groups was established with 13 members. The club base was broadened by adding a black home economics agent in 1946 who worked primarily with black homemakers.

A primary emphasis during the middle 1920's was on kitchen improvement. A county contest stimulated families to improve their kitchens which led to further home improvements. One Extension homemaker recalls that this project helped to gain support and new Extension homemakers for the county program. At about the same time, before the days of school cafeterias, Extension homemakers encouraged and assisted in preparation of soup kitchens in some of the county schools.

Families Without Electricity

Families in rural communities were without electric power, running water and sanitary facilities. The Extension staff and Extension homemakers became involved with W.P.A. projects in constructing outdoor facilities (which met the Public Health standards).

Home improvements led to home beautification with particular emphasis on growing grass for "green lawns versus sweeping the yards." New lawns led to interest in the planting and growing of shrubbery and flowers.

Tomato clubs were a start. Once vegetables were produced, methods of preserving them needed to be learned. The pendulum swings back and forth and today canning, freezing and drying are of utmost importance to most Pender County families. Marketing of produce for extra income was a big item years ago and today there is renewed interest in such projects. Individual vegetable stands and a

county curb market are helping increase income while providing a source of food for the nonproducer. Extension homemakers are responsible for helping to spread the word and getting the latest technical information to people.

Work Towards Library

In Pender County "reading" has been important to Extension homemakers from the beginning. The home economics agent working in the county during 1931-32 encouraged senior 4-H'ers to begin collecting books which were placed in a room above the drug store in Atkinson as a reading center for the community. During 1935-36 a W.P.A. project leader, following a personal dream, enlisted the help of Extension homemakers, 4-H'ers, community leaders and county government in planning for a county-wide library which was established.

Extension homemakers have promoted reading, served as volunteer lending stations, given volunteer time to the library, and developed their own county reading program which provides an opportunity for cultural growth in all areas. Presently, reading certificates are awarded each year and one Extension homemaker, in memory of her mother who was an avid reader and library supporter, awards a cash gift to the Extension homemakers club with the highest percentage of members receiving reading certificates.

The 1950's and 1960's introduced interest in community development. Extension homemakers helped to initiate community organizations whose projects included community buildings, home and community beautification, beautification of church grounds, improved mailboxes and road signs to welcome people to the community.

Cultural opportunities are limited in rural areas. In the 1950's a homemakers choral group brought people together and provided opportunity for entertainment and community sings. Also in the 1950's, homemakers developed a special interest in people of other countries. The county had its first exchange students who lived with an Extension homemaker family. On the state level the N.C. United Nations study tour was organized and Pender County had several delegates. In the middle 1970's an international study program was begun. Each year a country is selected for

study of its people, culture, foods, etc. A luncheon is prepared, using native recipes, and served to Extension homemakers. In 1978 the international leaders honored all foreign-born residents with a dinner which was followed by an educational program and entertainment.

In 1978 an American Field Service chapter was organized and Extension homemakers have supported this organization. In 1979 and 1980 Pender County was host to an AFS bus stop. Extension homemakers provided housing for approximately one-third of the group and each year served a luncheon for the exchange students and their host families. This experience has greatly increased understanding and good will between Extension homemakers and residents of other countries.

Health Care Promoted

The Extension homemakers have always been interested in the health care of individuals and families. They organized and sponsored the first county blood pressure clinic, and sponsored first aid and CPR courses (taught by an Extension homemaker, who became certified for this purpose).

The latest health project is the county bloodmobile. Extension homemakers clubs provide a meal for the Red Cross workers and volunteers during each county visit and, in July of 1980, became actively involved in serving as volunteer workers and assuming the responsibility of contacting potential donors. The Glaucoma clinic was another successful health project co-sponsored by the Extension homemakers organization.

To commemorate the county centennial and national bicentennial, a queen-size quilt was made by Extension homemakers. The squares of the quilt depicted historical sites, agriculture and/or industry. This quilt will be placed in the county museum.

Leadership development are key words in the Extension homemakers organization. This has been evident in past history as we recall the honor of having a state president and state

corresponding secretary. During 13 of the past 14 years Pender County has had one or more district officers. Three members have served as delegates to the national association meetings. One Extension homemaker was a delegate to a meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World.

During the 1950's a county clinic leader, who was interested in and a great supporter of Extension homemaker work, began an awards program to recognize an outstanding local club. An engraved trophy was awarded each year. This inspired the county council to begin recognition of one or two outstanding club women each year.

5 Get Leadership Awards

An outstanding state program is the A & P Leadership Award program. Pender County has had five Extension homemakers to receive this award. The Extension homemakers have sponsored several nominees for Mother of the Year awards. One nominee was named at the district level.

In the beginning of our history 4-H'ers were mentioned. The development of youth was important to Extension homemakers who have served as adult leaders. Under their leadership several 4-H youths have achieved state and national project recognition and scholarships.

This history has been devoted mostly to the development of individuals and families as related to family living. In addition to the contributions listed above, Extension homemakers have helped to sponsor and participate in county tours to the World's Fair, Williamsburg, Southern Living Show, etc.

Through the years groups have organized, dropped out and re-organized. One club, Shelter Neck Extension homemakers, has been in existence continuously since 1927. One of its charter members remains active. Since 1919, 18 Extension home economics agents have worked with Pender County families in helping them with their needs, regardless of income level or social status.

Perquimans



Home demonstration work in Perquimans County started in 1915, under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Nixon. She gave her time in organizing the first canning club under the sponsorship of Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, state leader.

In 1919 Miss Helen Gaither was employed as an assistant agent and later that year she was employed as a full-time home demonstration agent. She organized four girls' clubs and six adult clubs—Belvidere, Bethel, Durants Neck, Beech Springs, Chapanoke, and Chinquapin which was the first non-white club. Chinquapin was organized as a Tomato canning club in 1920.

The first county council was organized in 1920. Projects carried out during the year included canning tomatoes, millinery for women, and bread making for girls.

In 1924, Miss Maude Rogerson, a member of Beech Springs 4-H Club, made history by being the first youth from Perquimans County to win a trip to Chicago. She placed third nationally in bread making.

Helen Gaither in 1925

During 1925-1926, the regular home demonstration program was carried out by Miss Helen Gaither. Later that year, Miss Gaither became ill and resigned her position. Perquimans County was without an agent from 1926-1935.

Under the leadership of Miss Helen Gaither and Mrs. Thomas Nixon, Bethel and Belvidere clubs organized a county council which met quarterly. The officers consisted of Mrs. Lenna Griffin, president from Bethel and Mrs. Sylvia Winslow, secretary from Belvidere. Four of the members representing the two clubs met the county board of commissioners and requested the employment of a home demonstration agent and a 4-H agent. In 1935, the county decided to employ a home demonstration agent. Miss Gladys Hamrick was hired.

From 1935 to 1939 nine home demonstration

clubs were organized. In 1935 the Bethel non-white home demonstration club was organized under the leadership of Mr. J. B. Small, farm agent for Chowan and Perquimans Counties.

Among the outstanding events during 1938-1939 were flower shows, teas and educational tours. Much emphasis was placed on canning. A total of 65 club women owned pressure cookers and three of the clubs owned pressure cookers or canners. Canning methods improved 75 percent.

The county felt the need for an agriculture building. With the help of W.P.A., a building was built consisting of four offices, committee room, and an auditorium with a seating capacity for 180 persons. The home agent and farm agents moved in.

The accomplishments during this period were as follows: 16 club women attended the Farm and Home week in Raleigh. Two club houses were built (one at Bethel and one at Durants Neck). The projects carried out with agents as leaders were: home management, house furnishing, kitchen improvement, tour of the Worlds' Fair, farm and home radio broadcast in Raleigh, first county fair with clubs giving demonstrations, and mail box contest with 23 members entering.

Miss Hamrick left the county. Miss Nina Braswell was employed by the county commissioners to fill the position. Under Miss Braswell's leadership, a tea was given as a demonstration and educational event, honoring Miss Jayne Griffin, bride-elect.

The following agents have served Perquimans County: Miss Kimsey Perry, Mrs. Florence Webb, Miss Nancy Henderson, Miss Frances Maness, Mrs. Alline Alston, Mrs. M. B. Taylor, Mrs. Paige Underwood, Miss Ila McIlwain and Mrs. Juanita Bailey.

A group of 36 ladies met March 5, 1948 at Bay Branch community building with Mrs. Frances Maness, and W. C. Stroud, county farm agent. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a nonwhite county council. Officers elected were: Mrs. E. V. Billups, president; Mrs. Julia Winslow, vice president; Mrs. Isetta Hollowell, secretary; Mrs. Ethel Eason, assistant secretary; and Mrs. Nellie Welch, treasurer.

Work With Blacks

King A. Williams, agriculture teacher of Perquimans County Training School, Winfall,

scheduled meetings with the non-white homemakers on various subjects and continued to teach canning under shade trees with the use of big wash pots.

The women developed an appreciation for the value and use of home demonstration club work. They desired more knowledge and petitioned the county commissioners several times for a home demonstration agent to work with the nonwhite. The request was denied because of insufficient funds.

Since there was a lack of funds, the organization agreed to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the home demonstration agent's salary for one year, if the board of commissioners would pay $\frac{2}{3}$. This was agreed upon. Mrs. Alline Alston was hired in September 1948. Under her leadership, four home demonstration clubs were organized. On June 30, 1949 Mrs. Minnie Bess Edwards Taylor was employed as agent for nonwhites.

In September 1949 a survey to determine the needs of the people in the county was planned and carried out. The survey showed a need for better housing, lack of adequate food supply, poor surroundings, housing problems, poor community spirit and poor health habits. Two slogans were used in conjunction with programs to help solve many of the problems. The slogans were: "Raise a Square Meal Around The Home" and "Paint Up, Fix Up and Clean Up."

Mattress Making Taught

Mattress making was presented by Mrs. Genevieve Greenlee, housing specialist. Approximately 530 cotton and foam mattresses were made. There were three radio programs organized over stations W.G.A.I., W.C.D.J. and W.C.N.C. to keep the homemakers abreast of the newest techniques in homemaking.

A home nursing course was taught under the leadership of Mrs. Taylor with 35 homemakers enrolled. A health loan closet consisting of wheel chairs, hospital type beds, back rest, bedside tables, and many other items for the sick were made available.

Albemarle Craftsman's Fair and home industry program were organized. Twenty-nine homemakers passed the standard test to sell conserved products through the home industry, thereby increasing their income.

Aluminum tray etching workshops were the beginning of a strong crafts program under

the leadership of Mrs. Underwood. Quality crafts were stressed and leaders were trained at district summer workshops. Basketry, chair-stool bottoms, egg shell craft, pine needle craft, quilting, needlepoint, pine cone crafts, and stuffed toys were a few of the crafts which have helped Perquimans homemakers increase their income.

In 1960 the first Christmas open house was held. The open house gave the homemakers the opportunity to display crafts and creative handwork. The open house has been held annually since 1960 with interest and participation growing each year. As a result of the craft program, Mrs. John Elliott, Albemarle Craft Guild member, made copper plaques for the 50th anniversary of Extension homemakers which were presented at the State Council meeting held at Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh.

County Farm Festival

The county farm festival was sponsored by the Perquimans County Extension staff and homemakers. R. M. Thompson, county agent and Mrs. Underwood helped to organize the booths, premium entries, judging and activities. Mrs. Colon Jackson and Mrs. Warner Madre headed the many concession booths at farm festivals and Albemarle craftsman's fair.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Underwood, Perquimans County was hostess to the 25th district meeting, April 7, 1959. This was a big event with 500 guests attending from 15 counties. Perquimans County often brought the gavel back to the county for having the largest attendance.

The county council entertained the county commissioners annually and presented a report of accomplishments.

Each year, an annual awards and achievement day program is held to recognize leaders and show accomplishments.

"Stamp Out Malnutrition" was another slogan started by the homemakers under the supervision of Mrs. M. B. Taylor. (White rat demonstrations were used to prove that milk made a difference in the school.) This program continued for 6 years. The percentage of children drinking milk increased from 37 to 94. The white rat demonstration made county, district, and national news.

In 1963 Mrs. Warner Madre was chosen as

Mother of the Year. Mrs. Colon Jackson was chosen as Mother of the Year in 1965 and Mrs. Odell Hurdle has also been chosen as Mother of the Year.

In 1964 the Civil Rights Act passed. The agents and the Extension homemakers clubs were requested to write a constitution to show that no club would bar any participant because of race, creed, or nationality. The programs in the county were to be planned to include all people.

Several of our leaders have received silver trays from A & P as a leadership award. They were: Mesdames William Winslow, John A. Elliott, Lenna Griffin, T. T. Harrell, Sylvia Winslow, Marion Frierson, and C. T. Rogerson, Jr.

Mrs. T. T. Harrell is noted for her artistic and sewing ability. A beautiful painting by Mrs. Harrell was used in a N. C. State Fair Booth and later installed in the auditorium of the county office building. Mrs. Harrell of Burgess club and Mrs. Odell (Eva) Hurdle of the Winslow- Nicanor club have been employed by College of the Albemarle to teach sewing in Perquimans and Chowan Counties.

Recipes Featured

In 1976 Bay Branch Extension homemakers club's 200 recipes were featured in the annual *Daily Advance* cook book section. The club received \$100.

The county's first food show and tasting tour was held with several extension clubs participating. Many nutritious recipes were

given under the supervision of Mrs. M. B. Taylor, home economics Extension agent. The third food show and tasting tour was scheduled in 1980 under the leadership of Mrs. Juanita T. Bailey, assistant home economics Extension agent.

Mrs. C. T. Rogerson, Jr. and Mrs. Marion Frierson have served as District recording secretary.

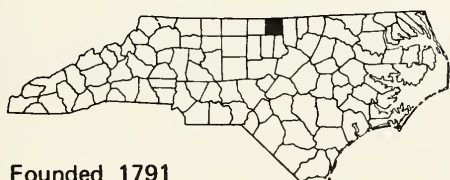
Mrs. Frierson is now serving as state recording secretary (1980). This is an example of leadership development and accomplishments.

Mrs. Juanita T. Bailey, assistant home economics Extension agent, 4-H, was employed to fill the position made vacant by Mrs. M. B. Taylor's retirement. Mrs. Bailey came to the county in January 1980.

In 1980 two Extension homemakers had a perfect attendance record in their local club—Mrs. Lenna Griffin 28 years (deceased—Aug. 1980) and Mrs. John Elmer Wood, Sr. of Snow Hill-White Hat with 38 years. Both received a beautiful illustrated book "The First 200 Years of North Carolina."

Mrs. Marion Frierson was featured in the *Daily Advance* on Sunday, August 24, 1980 in an article entitled "First In Nation In Public Relations" written by Bessie Culpepper, community editor. She stated that Mrs. Frierson clipped her way to national recognition by winning first place for her state public relations report. Of the nine areas in which there was participation, "publicity" was the only first place winner in the state for 1980.

Person



Founded 1791

Person County citizens made efforts to strengthen all phases of home living by organizing Extension work in the early 1900's, to function during the summer months. Canning, conservation of foods, and other home projects were taught in homes by an "emergency agent." These areas were major

concerns at this time as the depression years demanded a "live-at-home" program. After 1922, this type of Extension work was discontinued for several years.

Realizing that home demonstration work could provide the training to develop the kind of women Person County needed, Mrs. B. B. Bullock, a native of Person County, with the assistance of Miss Anamerle Arant, district agent, was appointed to formulate plans and procedures for hiring a full-time agent. The county commissioners appropriated the county's part of the salary. Miss Velma Beam from Lincoln county was hired in 1938, becoming Person County's first home demonstration agent.

Bushy Fork First Club

To expand and march toward the objectives, "To Learn, to Serve, and to Grow," nine clubs were organized in various sections of the county with 123 members. Bushy Fork was the first to be organized, then Bethel Hill, Helena, Mt. Tirzah, Allensville, Olive Hill, Hurdle Mills, Velma Beam and Cunningham. Clubs met monthly and have continued this practice throughout the years.

The need for an advisory board led to the organizing of a home demonstration county council in 1939. Mrs. D. B. Bauert served as first council president. The county council officers and 20 council presidents have guided and led the clubs for 42 years of Extension work.

The following persons served as county council presidents: Mesdames D. B. Bauert, B. B. Bullock, Thelma Gentry, Janie Hester, G. F. Slaughter, Dan Whitfield, Liza Whitfield, Sue Duncan, Nannie Lou Gentry, Mary G. Barnette, Dorothy Williford and Stella Gentry. Several presidents served more than 2-year terms.

Person county home demonstration clubs are designed to meet the needs of its citizens, with equal opportunities for all. In 1941, eight black clubs were organized. County Home was first, then Hurdle Mills, Lee Clay, Lee Jeffers, Cedar Grove, Harris Hill, Vernon Hill and Concord. Miss Annie M. Tuck, a native of Person County, was the first black home demonstration agent. She worked as a home demonstration agent for 37 years. After her retirement, Mrs. Brinda L. Greenwood from Nash County became the next black agent. The black and white clubs were integrated in 1965. The name was changed from home demonstration clubs to Extension homemakers clubs in 1967.

Nine dedicated county home economics agents have led Person homemakers through over four decades of progress: Misses Velma Beam, Annie M. Tuck, Mary Margaret Smith, Jan Clodfetter, Segrid Ellis, Louise Deekens, and Mesdames Brinda L. Greenwood and Lillie Ellen Hovatter.

As of 1980 Person County had 16 active clubs with 208 members, namely Allensville, Brookland, Helena, Olive Hill, Cavel, Leas Chapel, Westside, Velma Beam, Bushy Fork, Hurdle Mills, and Reamstown, formerly County Home. Recently organized clubs are

Piedmont, Somerset, Paynes Tavern, Providence, Roxboro Extension Homemakers and the Ladies club. The Ladies club was organized at the "Roxboro Nursing Home." Mrs. D. B. Bauert, first county council president, is president of this club.

Craft Fair Big Event

The clubs undertake a variety of projects, both individually and collectively. The largest single project is the county-wide arts and craft fair that is held each year in the county office building auditorium.

The severe winter forces people to spend more time inside at home. During these cold winter nights and days homemakers make all kinds of items for exhibit at the craft fair and for demonstrations. Approximately 900 to 1,000 adults and school children enjoy browsing through the displays at the craft fair. Everything from modern wire sculpture to afghans, cross stitching, oil painting, quilts, and others too numerous to mention are exhibited.

Each year a different fair theme is chosen. The theme in 1976 was "Bicentennial." This year (1980) it was "Something to Crow About, 200 Years of Freedom." All club members dressed in colonial costumes.

A bicentennial room with antiques and furnishings suitable for that era was used. Also, handmade quilts and a number of other things on display were reminiscent of yesteryear. The retired teachers organization presented a pageant on the wives of U.S. Presidents and brief history about each first lady was read during the pageant.

Also, in observance of the bicentennial the women gathered at the county office building to design and make a quilt. The pattern was done in a red, white, and blue star with red and blue bandanna print. This was a money-making project for the homemakers' county council treasury. It netted \$700. Approximately 30 homemakers, some from each club, helped to make the quilt.

17 Quilts Made

Person County homemakers completed 17 beautiful quilts in a variety of colors and patterns and presented them to the Person County Developmental Center. Each quilt was personalized with a *child's name* in the upper corner. The children at the development cen-

ter were enthusiastic and thrilled about the gifts. Several of the children decided it was nap time right then and cuddled up in their quilts. One little girl just sat, hugged hers, and smiled when anyone looked at her.

Every year, the various clubs display individual booths at the Person County fair. Usually the ideas are informative and educational. A wide range of topics is used, giving the viewers at a quick glance advice that will be useful in everyday living. Some of the topics include "Community Watch, Don't Let Your House Start Smoking," "What Can You Do For Your Country?," "Don't Rock Your Time Away," and Something To Crow About, 200 Years of Freedom."

Some years the homemakers sponsor an auction with proceeds going to the county council. Club members donate craft items, baked goods, and other bric-a-brac for the sale.

Person County's homemakers gather annually to celebrate their clubs' achievements at an achievement day luncheon in the county office building auditorium.

This day is usually one of anticipation, as a summary of the year's work is reviewed, achievement awards are presented, and new officers installed. The day also provides members with learning experiences and new ideas.

In the north central district and on state level, the following homemakers held various offices: Mesdames Janie Hester, Stella Gentry, Sue Duncan, Lessie Rogers, Rose Paradise, Nannie Lou Gentry, Gail Bailey, Robert Gentry, Dan Whitfield, Dorothy Williford and Mary G. Barnette. Five homemakers have attended the National Extension Homemakers Council meeting.

Safety Program Outstanding

Outstanding work has been done in Person County by the safety program of work leaders. They are commended for organizing a "com-

munity watch" in the county. Meetings were held in cooperation with the Roxboro police and sheriff departments. Signs such as "This area observed by Community Watch Citizens" were placed in all communities to show that citizens are concerned, not only about themselves, but about their neighbors. The goal is "total involvement." Much has been accomplished as the crime rate has been reduced.

New "welcome signs" are being erected in Person County, thanks to several Person County Extension homemakers clubs. They purchased the signs and placed them at the entrance to the community. They read: "Welcome To (the Name of Community)—Person County Extension Homemakers."

Throughout the years interesting workshops have been held. Some are conducted by individuals, invited skilled leaders, county agents, and clubs. Examples: Renovating old trunks, refinishing furniture and many others.

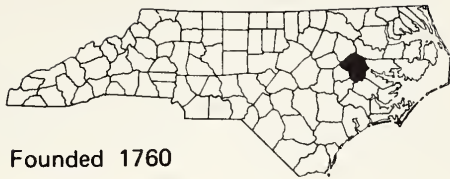
Not all of Person County's homemakers' time has been spent at work. They have sponsored trips to numerous points of interest.

A newsletter edited by the Extension homemakers staff and agents contains helpful tips on the program of work topics. This publication is valuable in meeting the needs of homemakers.

The county council contributes annually to Girls' Haven, the cancer fund, heart fund, and to other charities. The homemakers have furnished a room at the Person County Memorial Hospital.

Stuffed animals were made and presented to the residents in Oxford Orphanage at Christmas as well as to the Center at Butner. Favors were made for hospitals and rest homes in the county. Our goal is to be helpful to all citizens in these institutions, materially and spiritually.

Pitt



Founded 1760

Sixty-eight years ago in March 1912 Pitt County was one of the 14 pioneer counties which appropriated \$75 to pay an agent for 2 months. Records show that Miss Laura Wingfield from Texas was hired in April 1916 as the first home demonstration agent. She organized the first Tomato club in the St. John's community during her 6 months in the county.

In 1926 the Tomato clubs became known as the home demonstration clubs under the leadership of Home Demonstration Agent Bertha Lee Ferguson. Club work and rural women involvement flourished for the next few years. In 1931 there were 11 clubs. The purpose of the organization was "to make the farm homes of Pitt County a better place in which to live." Each year one major subject (either house furnishings, foods, or clothing) was carried for the entire year with some phases of the one subject being presented at each monthly meeting. The extra activities consisted of home gardens, beautification of home grounds, and a county curb market.

As one traveled the highways of this large tobacco county, he could see the many painted farm homes with yards that were landscaped as a result of the educational programs conducted. There were many changes in homes of the rural families that could not be seen by the traveler—improved health habits and diets, attractive and livable interiors of homes, happy families, and well-stocked food supplies.

Assistant Agents Added

Due to an increasing interest in home demonstration club work and to meet the demands of the rural women in the county, assistant home agent positions were added in 1941 and 1946.

Realizing the importance of this educational program, the leaders and the governing body of Pitt County felt that it should be available to all rural homemakers. In 1940 came the organization of home demonstration work for

black women. Mrs. Amelia Stanford Capehart of Greensboro was the first black home demonstration agent.

Through the years, agents have come (36) and gone (33). Also through the years, Pitt County women have continued to be outstanding leaders. Community buildings have been built, volunteer work for drives in cooperation with other local and state agencies and organizations have been done, and leadership development and personal enrichment has been gained. The county Extension homemakers organization has not only provided county leadership but has provided leadership on the district and state level, producing several state committee chairpersons and officers including two presidents.

Today's Extension homemakers program is designed to help the homemakers become well informed in all phases of family living. In addition to foods, clothing, and house furnishings that were major projects in the beginning, we now have programs on family



Mrs. Robert Starling and Mrs. Karl Hardee display United Nations flag made by Pitt County Extension Homemakers.

resource management, human development, health, education, music and cultural arts, citizenship, international, safety and emergency preparedness, public relations, and consumer affairs. The programs have changed with the times according to the existing problems. Current program emphasis is on inflation and energy conservation. Yet our basic objectives continue to be the same—that of developing people through a broad social, economic, and educational program with end results of higher standards of homemaking and family in the home and community.

15 Clubs in County

Today Pitt County has 15 clubs. Our records show that Red Banks, Red Oak, Renston, and Simpson clubs have been established since 1931. Of the clubs organized in the early 1940's, we still have two active clubs—Ayden and Grimesland. Active clubs which were not pioneers are Belvoir, Bethel, Farmville, Fountain, Pactolus, Red Oak Juniors, Sweet Gum Grove, Timothy, and Winterville.

This year (1980) Mrs. Obed Castelloe of Renston completed 35 years of perfect atten-

dance and Mrs. Margaret Barnhill completed 36 years.

Some Extension homemakers have stated that the Extension homemakers organization has done a lot in the rural areas to upgrade the standards of the general society and that it has meant a better way of life for many people in the community. The whole community has a broader appreciation of America and its resources.

Mrs. Obed Castelloe is very proud of the Jane S. McKimmon Center in Raleigh. She served as treasurer of the North Carolina Home Demonstration Building Fund from 1952 until the Center was completed. Mrs. Castelloe talks about how much egg and butter monies went into the treasury to provide the seed money for the construction of the Jane S. McKimmon building.

A bird's eye view of the Pitt County Extension homemakers organization has been shared with you. Leaders and members have gone through many changes, and they still stand ready to accept challenges as it helps to hold up the standards and objectives of the organization.

Polk



Home demonstration work has been going on in Polk County since 1922 when Sara M. Padgett became the first agent. The main emphasis during these early years was on home canning.

In 1927 a county council was organized to help plan home economics programs for women and girls. The council joined the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs in 1933. It also participated in the district federation and Mrs. Clara F. Watson of Melvin Hill served as secretary in 1934. Home demonstration canning leaders helped with the Emergency Relief Administration during the depression years.

Club members participated in "farmer and

wife" tours that began in 1927. They also participated in the first county fair held in 1927; yard and church beautification contests in 1932-33; and the first baby, molasses, corn and potato show in 1932. In 1929 a home grounds pilgrimage sponsored by Tryon Garden Club was held to visit homes and gardens in Tryon and to foster goodwill between rural and townspeople.

Transportation Big Problem

In the late 1930's transportation seemed to be a major problem. One club woman had a telephone and only six could drive a car. Home demonstration work was carried on in small groups in schools and by home visiting. Club women learned to cook balanced meals, beautify their yards, and improve their kitchens. The council of clubs met when necessary to plan activities.

The councils sponsored a canning demonstration in every community, a salvage drive, and safety in the home during the 1940's. "Victory gardens" were promoted and the theme



Polk County families attend "Open House" at a newly remodeled homestead.

for club members was "Food and Feed for Farm Family Living."

The Lanier club of Tryon was instrumental in bringing home demonstration work to Polk County and was one of its strongest supporters. With the club's help an office library of several hundred books was made available to the county. These books were turned over to the Polk County Library Association when it was organized in 1931.

The home demonstration clubs continued to have a keen interest in the library and for many years bought and circulated their own books.

In 1959 the council took as its project obtaining a bookmobile and getting a library established again. Through cooperative effort of civic groups and hard work, a special tax election was held and a library came into being in 1967. Club members have served on the library board.

The N.C. Extension Homemakers Association celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1970. Polk County honor club honored charter members to commemorate this occasion. They were Mrs. Esther Garrett, Mrs. Roy Jones and Mrs. C. V. Elliott, Midway; Mrs. Grover Greene, Big Level; Mrs. D. F. McIntyre, Peniel; Mrs. John Gibson, Columbus; Mrs. Della Jackson, Stony Knoll; Mrs. Bonnie Corn, Big Level; and Mrs. Mossie Thompson, Pea Ridge.

There are at present nine active clubs

throughout the county with 115 club members. The council of clubs has helped the 4-H & youth foundation in their projects, helped send needy and worthy 4-H'ers to camp; participated in home nursing courses, and home furnishing workshops, and published a cookbook. Club members have attended craft workshops to learn and have taught many craft classes to others. The clubs sponsor a bazaar annually in the fall of the year. This is a money-making project as well as a project to tell others about the many things Extension homemakers can make and do.

Food-Tasting Luncheon

In 1975 the clubs sponsored a food-tasting luncheon and exhibits. Club members prepared and served 200 people old-fashioned foods of the bicentennial era. In addition to the luncheon, club members displayed items they had made. Exhibits were open to the public during the luncheon and during the afternoon.

Quilting became a popular needlework activity because of the bicentennial revival of this early American art. Extension homemaker leaders have taught quilting to senior citizens, girls' groups and other homemakers. A quilt was made and sold by Extension homemakers. The money has been used to set up a hearing aid bank for testing hearing, reconditioning old hearing aids, and fitting

hearing aids to customers. The program has lowered the cost for those in need who could not afford a hearing aid previously.

The council of clubs has promoted the "Neighborhood Watch" program. The clubs also sponsored a lecture program by the Council on Appalachian Women Inc. Clubs, have assisted Stoney Knoll Day Care Center by making lap quilts for each child and furnished food for Valentine and Christmas activities.

Mrs Hubert (Muriel) McEntyre received an A&P Leadership award in 1965. She served as district second vice president in 1961; first vice president in 1962; and president in 1963. She also served as state corresponding secretary in 1967.

Home agents and assistant home agents who have served Polk County are listed below with dates of service:

Home Agents

Sara M. Padgett, May 15, 1922-Dec. 31, 1924; Lois Holderbaum, Feb. 4, 1925-Dec. 31, 1927; Florence T. Cox, Apr. 1, 1927-Dec. 31, 1934; Mary Agnes McLeon, Jan. 1, 1935-Nov. 5, 1938; Minna Lee Garrison, Dec. 10, 1938-Feb. 12, 1942; Gladys E. Hamrick, Apr. 1, 1942-Aug. 31, 1947; Margaret Cline Arledge, Sept. 1, 1947-Dec. 31, 1949; Ruth E. Kesler, Jan. 1, 1950-Aug. 31, 1951; Carolyn Flynn Brady, Sept. 1, 1951-Mar. 31, 1953; Elizabeth Wright Ormand (Acting HDA), Apr. 1, 1953-Aug. 31, 1953; Essa D. Shaw, Sept. 1, 1953-July 31, 1957; Mary Helen Neill, Aug. 1, 1957-July 31, 1960; Trevah Garrett, Sept. 1, 1960-Dec. 1, 1961; Shirley West Arledge, Aug. 1,

1962-June 30, 1966; and Anna J. Fitzgerald Henson, Nov. 1, 1966.

Assistant Home Agents

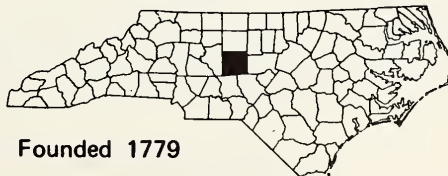
Margaret Cline Arledge, Aug. 1, 1946-Aug. 30, 1947; Lucy Pitts Satterwhite, Feb. 16, 1948-Feb. 29, 1949; Carolyn Flynn Brady, July 1, 1949-Aug. 31, 1951; Elizabeth Wright Ormand, Feb. 11, 1952-Mar. 31, 1953; Shirley West, June 14, 1954-Sept. 30, 1955; Rosalena Hale Carrington, Oct. 1, 1955-July 1, 1956; Laura Jean Ingram Martin, Aug. 15, 1956-June 15, 1959; Evangelena Linney, July 15, 1959-June 1, 1961; Betty Goode Waters, July 1, 1961-Aug. 8, 1963; Eloise Thompson Johnson, Sept. 1, 1964-Aug. 31, 1970; Teresa Smith Hunt, Oct. 1, 1970-May 31, 1972; Judy McLean Groff, July 1, 1972-June 15, 1978; Margaret Perry Hardin, Sept. 1, 1978-May 11, 1979; and Deborah Harriett Johnson, May 1, 1980.

Council Presidents

Since 1947 the following ladies have served as president of the council:

Mrs. Robert McFarland, 1947; Mrs. Robert Head, 1950; Mrs. W. O. Parker, 1955; Mrs. James Houser, 1956; Mrs. H. L. Arledge, 1958; Mrs. Hubert McEntyre, 1959; Mrs. E. E. Garrett, 1960; Mrs. Ethel Cochran, 1962; Mrs. John Crowder, 1964; Mrs. Minnie Greene, 1966; Mrs. Greek Underwood, 1968; Mrs. Helen Niehoff, 1970; Mrs. Evelyn Chapman, 1973; Mrs. Della Jackson, 1975; Mrs. Ruth Lancaster, 1976; Mrs. Jeanne Rhodes, 1978; Mrs. Ruth Douhsma, 1979; and Mrs. Sue Neal, 1980.

Randolph



Founded 1779

History is made one day at a time.
Not a set meter nor perfect lines—
So I choose to write this history in rhyme.

We think of our homes as the foundation of this nation.
To improve and strengthen them was our goal from the creation
Of Home Demonstration Clubs in many Randolph locations.

In Foods and Nutrition our work was begun.
Learning proper food conservation pleased everyone.
And the new pressure canners made canning more fun.

Sandra Martin and Louise Kearns examine a wall hanging that will go into the recreation room at Girls' Haven. Randolph County Extension Homemakers donated more than \$3,000 to the Girls' Haven project.



To conserve meats, vegetables, and our fruits too
 Proved a big help in the budget for foods.
 With our know-how and energy there was just one thing to do.

Curb Market

A Curb Market for surplus was a dream come true
 For in-town folks and rural folks too.
 Commodities ranging from hog jowl and confections of many hues
 Were brought to the make-shift quarters, as the ladies wanted to do.

In these endeavors our husbands pitched right in
 We soon also had the Kiwanis Club friends
 In acquiring land and building — a good community blend.
 The market was a bonanza until the change in trend
 Ladies went to industry work and produce wasn't brought in.
 So after 22 years a good thing came to an end.

Loan Fund

The market property was sold — now there was money to spend.
 With a challenge to County Council a Loan Fund begins
 So that county boys and girls seeking higher education on us could depend
 For a loan of monies to see them through to the end.

Since 1965 eighteen loans have been granted for degrees.
 And each year every member contributes a one dollar fee
 So monies are there when it needs to be.
 It was named The Rose Badgett Loan Fund in 1973
 For the agent who worked, encouraged and believed
 That we could handle this big project you see.

The Home Demonstration Clubs were recognized by all kinds—
The local grocer had dilemmas at times
When H. D. women a new item needed to find.
He could be heard as he loudly exclaimed
“That DEMONSTRATION WOMAN’S been in our community again.”

Christmas in Randolph

In 1968, that we were ready for a challenging project was clear.
So Christmas in Randolph was born that year.
Entertaining, decorating, foods and gift ideas
Were displayed in Asheboro-Randolph County Library, spreading cheer.
Free to over 2,000 people who came from far and near.
With beautiful refreshments and socializing with friends so dear.
For two days, different themes come through in many new ideas,
Since 1969 Christmas in Randolph is held every two years.

From the beginning, we’ve had lots of fun times.
And the fair booth in Raleigh comes to mind
With nude manikins in truck bed and traffic behind
Gazing in wonder and questioning our find.
Must have been mind boggling to that traffic line.

Fall Festival

It’s become a habit now in very early fall
A downtown Festival is held for one and all.
To go “country” was our 1975 call—
So pinto beans with cornbread were sold in our assigned stall.

In October 1976 we demonstrated a swedish cooking trick.
With timbale irons we made and sold all we could fix.
A Bicentennial Quilt made in squares from every club in the county
Gave Girls Haven a donation of fifteen hundred dollars for its bounty.

We found in 1977 Randolph Folks really like candy.
And some of our ladies can make it just dandy.
So fudge, mints, peanut brittle are always handy
When the ones come just for our candy.

This project has been a big, big success.
Demonstrating how to make peanut brittle is really quite a test.
But every member cooperates to make it the best,
So each fall we can really ‘feather our nest.’

The club women found we have influence too.
A woman on jury duty found a restroom unfit to use—
Went to the Commissioners to see what they’d do.
“We’ll clean it up, now hush.” They said—another accomplishment through.

Educational Tours

Whether we travel over sea or land.
Our Educational Tours are all well planned
By the Extension Agent and her right-hand man
To enlighten and enrich in every way they can.

New England, Southern States and Midwestern Lands
All served us history, craft ideas, foods, and beauty so grand.
It's great to be part of the Extension Homemaker Clan.

In thinking about education, I'd like to say—
The educational movies on cancer really struck one day.
When a Farmer Club lady just fainted away.

State Projects

As we come to this place in time
Many pleasant memories crowd my mind.
Of State Projects we've covered many kinds
Our Bloodmobile work — A Reading Program we are behind—
Senior Citizens Parties — Dress Revues so fine.
Hostesses for Naturalization Ceremonies many times—
United Nations, ACWW, Citizenship delegates with open minds.
The Girls Haven Project that's right down our line.

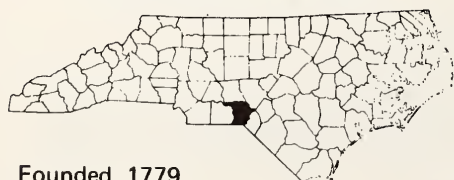
Randolph had three State Presidents at different times
So very outstanding their records—and there's been no decline—
Several attributes of many leaders come to mind
So it might be best not to single out one at a time—
We'd surely miss some at the head of the line.

Its been forty-one really good years.
Lots of laughter and maybe a few tears.
Not always in meter or even in rhyme,
But eager to learn and expand the mind.

*Compiled by—
Sallie Ward
Lela Ann White
Louise Kearns
Zeola English
Rose Badgett*

*Written by—
Sallie Ward*

Richmond



Founded 1779

Farmer conventions built up interest in improving conditions in rural homes in Richmond County and led to the appointment of Mrs. John Sandy Covington as home demonstration agent in 1916. Mrs. Covington was

abounding with energy and enthusiasm for helping people. In July 1923 Mrs. Anna Lea Harris became home demonstration agent. She gave untiringly and enthusiastically of her time, talents, and energy to the rural people of Richmond County. She reported in one annual report having good attendance meeting with black homemakers in churches on Sunday afternoons. Following Mrs. Harris who stayed until 1943 were Mrs. Sadie McCall Maurer, Mrs. Frances W. Ryburn, Miss Grace Holcomb, Miss Mary L. Ray, Mrs. Jane Little Pittman, Mrs. Joann Bryant, Mrs. Frances

McCraw Walker, Miss Jean Jordan, Miss Frances Temple, Mrs. Marjorie S. Morris, and Mrs. Rebecca W. Bracey.

Early in 1919, the first black home demonstration agent, Mrs. Sadie P. Harris, was employed for 2 months in an emergency. Again, in July 1923, a black, Ms. Lucy Wade, served for one year. In 1934 Mrs. Ester B. Fountain was employed for special food preservation work. Beginning in 1949 the program for blacks began on a continuous basis with the first home demonstration and 4-H clubs organized by Mrs. Sarah Williams Durante. Mrs. Durante, too, was an unselfish, enthusiastic leader who gave freely of herself to her clientele through 1959. Her club members remember her as being "really special". Following Mrs. Durante, were Mrs. Jeanette Sherrod, Mrs. E. Hortense Potts, Miss Gracie Cheek (now Mrs. Halbert Jackson, currently a home economics teacher who continues to render outstanding service to the people of Richmond County) and Miss Philistine Nesmith.

Organizations Merge

In the mid 1960's the Extension organizations for blacks and whites merged. Since that time agents who have given leadership include Mrs. Martha Adams (1953-1978), Mrs. Lucille Mays Carter, Mrs. Dorothy Mobley Hearne, Mrs. Jo Ramsey, Mrs. Linda Tussey, Mrs. Carolyn Kearns, Mrs. Mary B. Bowles, and Mrs. Earline G. Waddell. Mrs. Adams has the distinction of being the home agent with the longest tenure in Richmond County. She is now one of our most active club members, giving freely of herself in the VEEP program, conducting workshops and helping where needed.

Richmond County is fortunate to have had capable and dedicated professional leadership. To have had the program founded by such dynamic personalities as Mrs. John Sandy (Maggie) Covington, Mrs. Anna Lea Harris, and Mrs. Sarah Williams Durante provides a heritage second to none. These ladies indeed, became "a legend in their time."

F. Jack Kelly remembers that in Mrs. J. S. Covington's day the clubs conducted contests with a mother and daughter in one community competing with mother and daughter in another to see who could can the "prettiest and best" jars of all kinds of fruits and

vegetables. The county had a canner which the agent carried to rural areas where homemakers canned all day. His mother, Mrs. Hal Kelly, was one of many club members who taught others how to can.

In 1923 Mrs. Anna Lea Harris and the county agent, W. H. Barton, organized a curb market to provide opportunities for town residents to get fresh produce and to help increase farm income. Produce was first offered for sale on the afternoon of September 22, 1923. For 14 years the sale of small items continued on the street set aside for this purpose every Saturday morning. Sales amounted to \$63,201.34 by 1937 when the county commissioners built a building for the curb market. It opened November 24, 1937. Produce worth \$153,547.27 had been sold by 1945. On February 23, 1946 curb market sellers organized with the following officers: president—Mrs. G. M. Covington; vice president—Mrs. A. H. McCall; secretary-treasurer—Mrs. Ralph Hutchinson. The curb market continued through 1961.

In the early 1930's pellagra was a problem in Richmond County. The agent reported visiting 147 cases in 1930. Only two of those people died, and they were "in extremis" when found. Pellagra was found mostly in mill villages and was deemed to be due to economic conditions to a great extent. Club members contributed milk and eggs to the pellagrins, and nutrition was a main topic studied by the clubs. In 1932 a goal for club members was to have "no deaths from pellagra in the county."

Hats From Corn Shucks

The year 1933 found club members making hats of braided corn shucks. Miss Glenn Caudle of Gibson Mill community received orders from Burlington, Clinton, Wilmington, and Raleigh. She charged one dollar for a hat finished and blocked. The color was natural shucks which "blends nicely with any color."

Special projects have been significant through the years. Home garden contests have encouraged families to try new vegetables. In 1935 the county winner of the fall and winter garden contest, Miss Nancy Ellerbe, served 17 different vegetables from her garden in October, 13 in November, 12 in December and January, seven in February and ten in March. Sixty-five women visited Miss Ellerbe's gar-

den November 16, 1935. This inspired many to have more than collards and turnips in their winter gardens.

Mattress making was a special project that enabled many families to have clean, comfortable bedding. In 1941 there were six centers for mattress making where 3,668 mattresses were completed. Men and boys sewed on these mattresses as well as the ladies. Most of the people who made these mattresses had no mattresses in their home, just straw ticks. This project enabled 7,000 people to sleep more comfortably.

Workshops have been conducted on every imaginable topic related to homemaking. Refinishing furniture and restoring it have been traditional favorites and are still in demand today. Making baskets of pine needles and honeysuckle vines, chair caning, and bottoming workshops are still conducted. In 1978 Wallace Flynt, county Extension chairman, hosted all clubs for a monthly meeting and gave a program on "junque" furniture.

As enviable as the record of Extension clubs in the educational realm is, that of community service is equally outstanding. Throughout their existence club members have worked together to achieve material and spiritual things for their families and their communities. They were instrumental in getting electricity to the farms, telephones to rural areas, better roads, new community schools, a bookmobile in the county and the school lunch program. The Anna Lea Harris Student Loan Fund was established to help students further their education.

Victory Gardens Popular

Victory gardens were a prime concern during the 1940's. Two hundred and ninety-five home demonstration members had victory gardens in 1944. Twenty-one were new gardeners. Other war efforts included collecting 354,789 pounds of scrap iron, 119,943 pounds of scrap paper, collecting and selling 289 pounds of fat and grease. Club members and their families bought over \$58,000 of war bonds, gave over \$1500 to Red Cross, donated cookies to USO, served as hostesses for USO and wrote letters for soldiers at Camp Mackall Hospital.

Each year at achievement program the accomplishments in community service are impressive. In recent years club members have

sent Christmas gifts to patients at McCain, upgraded furnishings at Samaritan Colony, held various fund-raising projects in support of rescue squads, and secured a piano for the county parks and recreation department. They donated books to the libraries and contributed \$500 to the Kemp Memorial Library in Ellerbe.

Clubs have provided first-aid kits for school buses; remembered residents at rest homes with gifts, flowers and made clothing and other articles for them; donated food, clothes, and toys to the needy; sponsored clinics to check blood pressure, immunize for tetanus and other diseases; and brought the first opera to the county.

Members have made quilts for orphanages, improved community buildings, and sponsored 4-H clubs, classes and workshops. In assisting other organizations, clubs have collected money and contributed to the Mental Health Association, cancer fund, heart association, TB (now Mid-State Lung) Association, Red Cross, and others.

In 1976 making an embroidered quilt of state birds and flowers was a county project netting over \$2000. In 1979 Mrs. W. A. Reynolds and Mrs. Kathleen Terry served as co-chairmen of another county project, a chicken and dumpling supper raising more than \$800 for community service. In 1980, Extension homemakers volunteered more than 6,000 hours in educational and community service endeavors.

International Goodwill

Promoting international goodwill has been the purpose of hosting IFYE delegates from Finland, Germany, and India, and helping send Polly McDonald Cobb to France and Molly Nichols Henderson to Jamaica. Mrs. Cecil McCall was a representative to ACWW in Ireland and Mrs. Vernon Hogan in Australia. Club members have entertained international residents of the county with picnics, teas, and covered dish dinners in recent years.

Through the years there have been clubs organized and making significant contributions throughout the county. Communities having clubs at one time or another include the following: Ashley Chapel, Beaver Dam, Crosland, Covington, Ellerbe, East Ellerbe, Ellerbe Grove, Gibson Mill, Green Lake, Led-

better, Mangum, Miday, Millstone, Marston, Mt. Pleasant, Hoffman, Mt. Creek, Norman, Pinecroft, Saron, Pleasant Hill, Sandridge, Rockingham, East Rockingham, Hamlet, St. Stephen.

Victorian, the first club, was organized in Roberdel Community. Names of clubs have changed or been selected in some instances to honor an outstanding club member or leader or their memory.

Leadership development has been a primary aim of club work since its beginning. In this area, too, Richmond County has fared well.

Mrs. T. J. Fletcher served as state secretary in 1931, and Mrs. Cecil McCall as state treasurer in 1961-'62. The A & P Leadership award has been awarded to Mrs. Cecil McCall, Mrs. Woodford Sherrill, Mrs. T. Glenn Long, Mrs. Eddie Powers, Mrs. C. W. Hudson, and Mrs. George Moffitt.

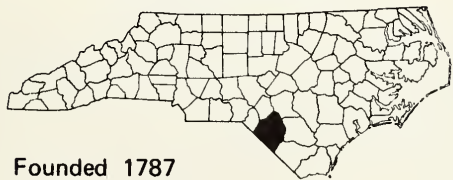
The impact of volunteers on club programming has been immeasurable. Since its incep-

tion they have assumed responsibility on an ever increasing basis. Volunteer Extension Education Program (VEEP) winners in recent years include Mrs. C. H. McCall, Mrs. Louise Rowland, and Mrs. Ola Helton. Mrs. Louise Rowland was district winner in 1979.

The high regard that members have for club work is evidenced by those who have been members for 50 years including Mrs. D. L. Allen, Mrs. John Snead, Mrs. A. H. McCall, Mrs. H. T. Allen, Sr., Mrs. E. A. Webb, Mrs. Marshall Carpenter, Mrs. M. D. McLamb, Mrs. Edna P. Dawkins, Mrs. Hal Kelly, Mrs. A. H. Rummage, Mrs. D. E. Reynolds, Mrs. Frank Witherspoon, Mrs. Jeff Little, Mrs. W. H. Covington, Mrs. Ralph Covington, and Mrs. E. E. Vuncannon.

When one reviews the record of club work in Richmond County a safe assumption would be that Extension homemakers have had tremendous impact on creating the Richmond County of today.

Robeson



Robeson County Extension homemakers enjoyed the exciting events and activities they planned and participated in last year (1979).

The "International Year of the Child" seminar was a most informative event. Extension homemakers formed a committee to plan and implement the seminar and invited the social services, court counselors, educators, housewives, health department nurses, and other professionals to participate on specific panels. The topics explored were all related to the child, such as education, health, legal, parent and child relationships, and many others. More than 300 persons attended the seminar. The main speaker of the day was Dr. Helen Sherbeck, the national director for the "International Year of the Child" program in Washington, DC.

Extension homemakers selected as a fund-

raising project the sale of American Indian fry bread at the Robeson County fair. The fry bread was prepared and cooked on the site so that the public could see the process firsthand. This proved to be the best fund-raising project ever.

In the month of May, Extension homemakers sponsored a blood pressure clinic in cooperation with the Robeson County ambulance service. All citizens were encouraged to have their blood pressure checked. A blood-pressure clinic was set up in our building for this purpose.

One hundred and five club members participated in first aid and emergency care programs and cooperated with the Red Cross and the bloodmobile.

Robeson Extension homemakers stressed immunizations as a preventive health program by checking family immunization records, encouraging community action, and encouraging the elderly to check their records also. Homemakers also sponsored a health education seminar.

Four-H'ers and Extension homemakers modeled their handmade garments together in a fashion show. Ten volunteers worked with

60 4-H members in the 4-H program. The Extension homemakers supported the EFNEP camp by sponsoring three youth.

Lap Reading Promoted

Extension homemakers promoted "lap reading" by making learning cubes for churches in the community and encouraging parents to read more often to their children and letting their children read to them. Through this program, they also encouraged better understanding and improved communications and relationships within the family. This also allowed children and adults to develop to their fullest potential.

Extension homemakers participated in the budget analysis program and encouraged others to do the same. Each club kept the public informed on the benefits members derived as Extension homemakers with the use of newspaper articles, personal contact, radio and television programs, exhibits, and distribution of teletip.

Twenty-four Robeson County Extension homemakers attended the achievement day activities in Hoke County. Mrs. Mary Thompson was awarded the district VEEP award on this occasion.

Robeson County Extension homemakers paid \$80 for seminars, camps, and non-credit education. A sum of \$228.75 was paid for supporting international programs, \$50 was contributed to fairs and cancer funds, and \$332.50 was contributed to meet other requests for financial assistance.

Club members assisted agents with 148 meetings on clothing, food and nutrition, housing and house furnishings, consumerism, child development, family relationships, aging, and creative crafts.

Extension homemakers sponsored the Snowflake Shoppe. Quality crafts that had been made by homemakers and master craftsmen were on sale to the public. Items that were sold were needle crafts of all kinds,

woven baskets, feather crafts, wood carving crafts, plants and flowers, quilts, and baked goods.

Highlights of Year

Some highlights of the year follow:

- Mrs. Eva Anderson was selected as outstanding lesson leader.
- Mrs. Mary Walters Thompson was selected as the local and district VEEP winner.
- Mrs. Mabel Simpson was selected as outstanding leader.
- The Pembroke Extension homemakers club was selected as the outstanding club.
- Ms. Barbara Avent was selected as the craft winner, she had a craft display at the Southern Christmas show.
- The Shannon Extension homemakers were the reading project winners.
- The Lakewood Club was the lap reading project winner.
- Mrs. Eva Mae Anderson served as district recording secretary.
- Twenty-five families were shown how to use the microwave oven.
- Homemakers reported refinishing 80 pieces of furniture, remodeling 17 homes, adding family rooms, fireplaces, and bedrooms.
- One hundred thirty-six families painted homes and 29 added wallpaper for the first time.
- Ninety-eight families made sheets, bedspreads, curtains, pillows, and draperies.
- One hundred sixty-four homemakers made quilts.
- More than 1,500 hours were spent by homemakers doing volunteer services for youth, senior citizens, Red Cross blood-pressure clinics, and other needy services for families.
- Thirty-three homemakers reported reading an average of three to ten books.
- Five communities landscaped church and community buildings for the first time.



Extension Homemakers club members have had educational booths at the State Fair for many years. Guilford County had an eyecatcher at the 1953 event.



Making hats was one of the popular activities of Home Demonstration Club members in the late 40's and early 50's.



Quilting is a popular project with many Extension Homemakers. Things may go even quicker with canine supervision.



District activities are an important part of Extension Homemakers functions. Here's how the districts looked in 1965.



Craftsman's fairs are an excellent way for Extension Homemakers to share their skills with others.



Although many Extension Homemakers classes are taught in homes, participants occasionally find themselves in a classroom setting.

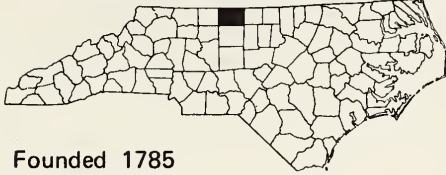


Special interest meeting on Music in the Rural Churches attracts the attention of Extension Homemakers from across the state.



Homemakers board the bus for a tour of United Nations headquarters in 1954.

Rockingham



In 1917 a far-seeing board of county commissioners appropriated funds for a home demonstration agent in Rockingham County. Having had a farm agent for 4 years, the county appointed Miss Mazie Kirkpatrick as the first home agent.

Miss Kirkpatrick said when Dr. McKimmon, state agent, asked her to come to Rockingham County and start home demonstration work, she wondered if she could make a go of it. On a cold, windy November day in 1917 she got off the train in Reidsville.

Through the cooperation of the county commissioners, she was given a Model T touring car of the type that "aired you out as you go." The open type car was the kind she needed for those days since she needed to carry a hot water canner and a cumbersome stove pipe.

Her first work here was with the girls in various schools. This work consisted of tomato canning demonstrations, biscuit-making contests, and rat-killing contests. She had 15 schools participating.

By 1919, Miss Kirkpatrick had organized the Apple and Clark clubs. These were later combined into the Apple-Clark club with Mrs. J. W. Turner as president. Mrs. Turner served as state president in 1929.

Also in 1919, the home and farm agents organized community fairs which were held at three places. In 1920 more fairs were held at the following rural schools: Dan Valley, Matrimony, Apples and Bethany.

Struggle Against Hardships

Miss Kirkpatrick's work in Rockingham County was one of struggle against bad roads and many hardships that we cannot imagine today. This being a new educational movement she had many opposing factions. But her sense of humor and her ability to make friends helped her to put this work across gradually.

In 1921 Miss Ethel Wells (now Mrs. Floyd Moore) came to the county to replace Miss Kirkpatrick.

Some of Miss Well's impressions when she

first arrived in Rockingham County were as follows: In speaking of the roads, she said, "the main ones were dragged after every rain or snow, the second class roads were good in good weather, sometimes impassable in bad weather, and the third class roads all but impassable. On many occasions have I held my breath in trying to negotiate an incline in low gear for desperate fear of turning over sideways."

The agent's car was an old Chevrolet touring car inherited from "Miss Kirk." "It could climb a slicky hill like a Rocky Mountain goat and let in more cold wind around the curtains and laprobe than I thought could get in any one car," she said. A new Chevrolet sedan was donated by the county for home demonstration work in 1922.

Other agents through the years have not experienced the hardships faced by these pioneer home economics agents.

Rockingham Agents

Home economics Extension agents who have served in Rockingham County are listed below:

Miss Myrtie Keller, 1923-1929; Miss Marjorie Holmes, 1929-1939; Mrs. Mamie W. Townes Merritt, 1937-1944; Miss Grace E. Holcomb, 1939-1945; Mrs. Zadie V. Jackson, 1944-1973; Miss Ruby Leftwich, 1945-1946; Miss Marian Bullard, 1946-1954; Miss Dorothy Mann, 1945-1946; Miss Marcia Gilchrist, 1946-1947; Miss Mary E. Holder, 1947-1948; Miss Mildred Gray, 1948-1949; Miss Audrey Feezor, 1949-1951; Miss Jeanne Snow, 1952-1953; Miss Isabelle Buckley, 1953-1966; Miss Janis Medlin, 1951-1952; Mrs. Janis Snow, 1954-1955; Miss Kate Slagle, 1955-1957; Miss Patricia Gordon, 1955-1956; Miss Eugenia Green, 1956-1961; Miss Martha Edmondson, 1957-1960; Miss Anna J. Fitzgerald, 1960; Miss Dorothy L. Barrier, 1962; Miss Betty J. Branson, 1964-1967; Miss Katie Sue Grady, 1968-1969; Miss Jane K. Stuart, 1968; Miss Martha B. Edwards, 1969-1971; Mrs. Joyce R. Hildreth, 1971; Mrs. Lydia S. Withers, 1972.

(In 1929, it was doubtful whether there would be any more home demonstration agents to work with farm women because commissioners discontinued appropriations for the work. Interested farmers and farm women, with the help of other friends, among them being Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Penn, Mr.

and Mrs. Charles Penn, and Mrs. B. Frank Mebane, made private contributions to continue the work. Our women pleaded with the commissioners—they also went to the State Legislature and had a law passed to the effect that Rockingham County would always employ a home agent. Ours is the only county in the state that has such a law.)

It would be impossible to mention which accomplishments have been the most outstanding or most significant during the past years.

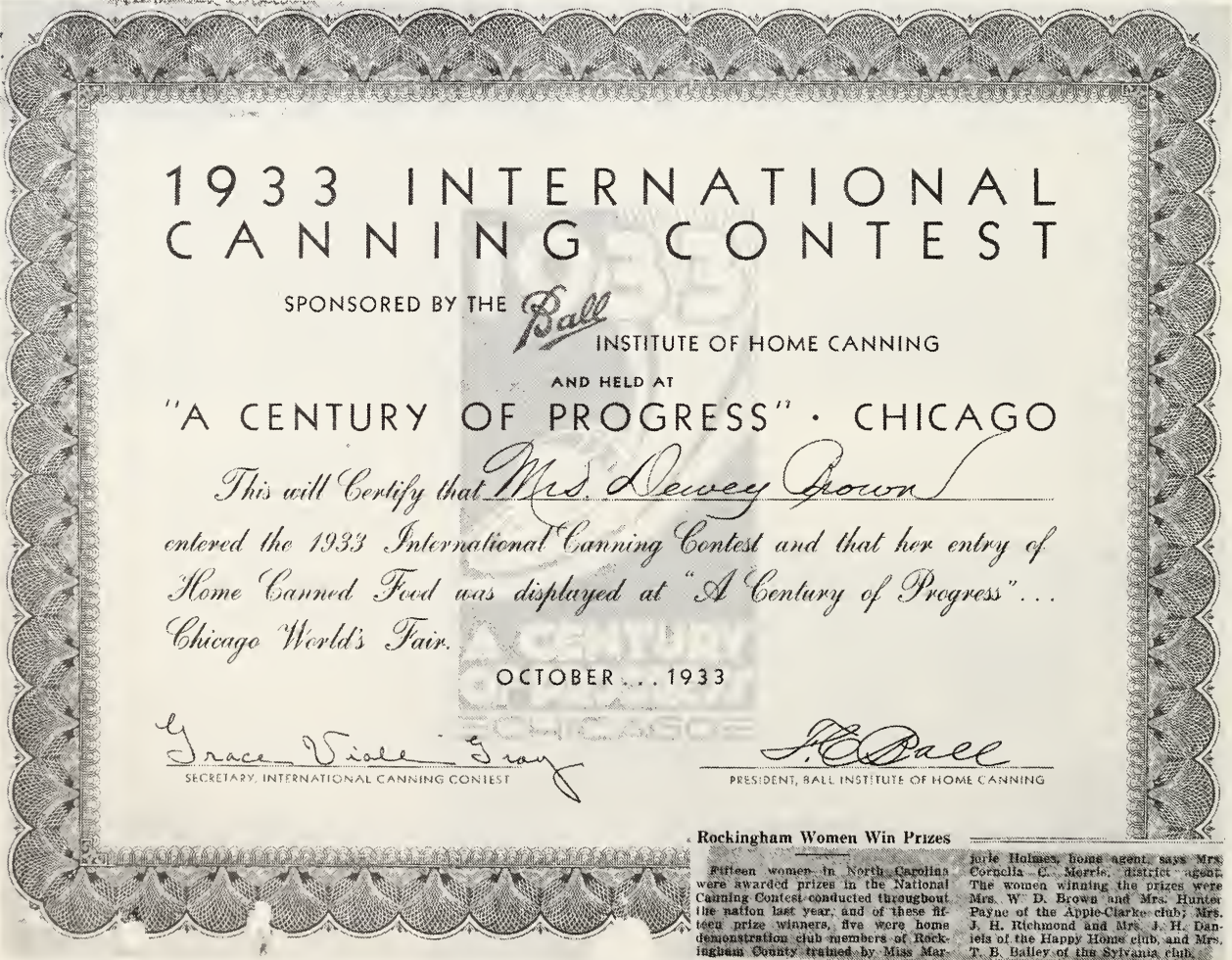
Projects during the early years were gardening, canning, food preparation, nutrition, sewing, home improvement, home management and mattress making. To these early projects have been added family- and community-centered programs. This has caused women to have more pride in their homes and communities and in their own personal appearance. A club member can usually be found as a leader in her community, church and county.

Community Buildings

Raising money for community buildings has been one of the biggest projects in which Extension homemakers have participated. Approximately \$45,000 was raised during one 10-year period. Members also contributed \$1,185.50 to the State Home Demonstration Building Fund. This contribution, along with funds from other members across the state, planted the seed for the Jane S. McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

In 1928, a loan fund was started in the county to help qualified boys and girls with their education. Twenty-six girls and boys were loaned a total of \$7,380. This fund was changed in 1978 to a scholarship fund for boys and girls.

The Extension homemakers of the county printed a cookbook in 1951. Only 1,500 copies were printed and these were sold in a short time. In 1964 the clubs decided to print an entirely new cookbook. It was advertised



In 1933, fifteen North Carolina homemakers were awarded prizes in a national canning contest.

nationally in 1974 and copies have been sold all over the United States and some foreign countries. Profits from the cookbook fund have been used in contributions of \$500 to Girl's Haven and \$2,000 to the 4-H Development Fund, and for 4-H camp scholarships, county scholarships, and local Extension homemaker projects.

We have had two A & P Leadership winners, Mrs. Rufus Southard of the Lawsonville Club and Mrs. Charles Turner of the Apple Clark club. There are presently 30 clubs with 450 members.

A Testimonial

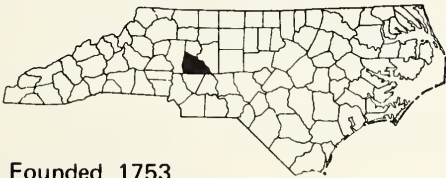
Just how much has club work meant to the women of Rockingham County? Mrs. John H. Wetmore, writing many years ago to the editor of the local newspaper, had this to say:

"When I was a little girl the woman of 40 was considered old. Now look at the country woman of 50 and older. Stylish, neatly dressed, attractive, a good conversationalist

and well versed in the ways of this world. Interested in her home, her family, her school, her community and her church. Truly there has been a great change since 1910 and 1912. Home agents, club work and modern conveniences have helped to bring about this great change. Just because a woman is a wife and mother and has a big family is no reason why she should settle down and stay at home and work always. All the more reason why she should learn more, see more, experience more.

"Some of the youngest, prettiest women I know have gray hair and are called 'Grandma' by certain little tots, but these women are young at heart. They will never grow old. The work of our home agent has helped to bring about this change with our country women. Tell me, then, pray why shouldn't our county be allowed a certain part of the taxes for this work? It is not a luxury, but a necessity. It has long passed its experimental stage, all progressive and up-and-coming counties have it. Do we want to be a back number?"

Rowan



Founded 1753

Adult education clubs, presently known as Extension homemaker clubs, were begun in Rowan County in 1912 under the direction of Miss Maggie Julian. Miss Julian was later known as Mrs. W. H. Canup who remained a club member until her death in 1973. Miss Julian was hired at a salary of \$1 per year.

By 1921 a full-time agent was employed and a program was well under way in Rowan County. Program subjects that year included color in clothing, millinery, patterns, food preservation, nutrition and Christmas suggestions.

Two important projects were started a couple of years later—the hot lunch program for the school children and the organization of the Rowan public market. From the garden and poultry farms, total sales the first year were \$3,284.18. Four years later the figure was \$10,336.31.

Interest in Fairs Grows

Much interest was created through participation in the community and state fairs by 1924. That year, Rowan County had a booth at the state fair on house furnishings. Also, the girls had demonstrations on clothing and bread making. That interest has continued and homemakers still have educational exhibits at the Rowan County fair and the state fair when assigned.

By this time, clubs were well established and club members were interested in learning a wide variety of skills. In 1933 there were 20 clubs with a combined membership of 612 persons, plus 54 4-H clubs for girls and the Rowan Home Improvement Association. Canning was a major project that year.

Home demonstration programs to service Rowan's black population were begun in 1935 with emphasis on food preservation, clothing, health and sanitation. The first council of the black organization was formed in 1939, a combination of home demonstration and farmer's council. The first black home agent was the late Mrs. Annie J. Johnson who worked in Rowan County for 18 years.

Through the combined efforts of white and

black clubs the bookmobile came into existence.

400 Garments for Needy

The white council undertook its first big community service project in 1948. Twelve clubs made about 400 new garments and gave them, along with \$25 to buy shoes, to the Rowan County Welfare Department which in turn distributed them to needy children in the county. This project has continued through the years. From its beginning in 1948 to May 1980, 20,647 garments have been made and \$4,998.14 has been contributed to purchase new shoes. Mrs. Elmer Lagg, council president in the early 1960's, wrote President Lyndon Johnson, saying Rowan County Extension homemakers have been helping the needy since 1948 by making thousands of garments and contributing many dollars for new shoes for needy children. She received a letter of appreciation from the President.

In the fall of 1952, Mrs. C. Fred Reeves, a club member, initiated through the council a volunteer project with the local Veterans Administration Hospital. This volunteer service is still providing flowers for the chapel about 24 Sundays a year; four different members to assist with sewing each week; and monthly birthday parties for patients.

Black Issue Progress Report

In 1953 the black council, under the leadership of Mrs. Johnson, initiated a progress report of Negroes in Rowan County. The report also offered recommendations to members of the Negro community to:

- Improve and beautify all road-side property.
- Beautify and maintain all cemeteries.
- Improve county roads.
- Establish community health centers where minor services could be rendered and referrals of larger problems to the county unit.
- Establish community recreation centers.
- Continue school, church, and home improvements.
- Become more active politically.
- Request more openings for job opportunities.
- Strive toward more diversified education.

- Work for the overall advancement of all people.

This report was published and bound in hard cover. It was of interest to all the Negroes in Rowan County as it contained pictures of their homes, churches, organizations, families and schools.

In 1965, the white and black councils merged with a combined membership of 43 clubs and 1087 members.

Charter Members Honored

At the 50th anniversary celebration in 1970, 12 members were honored who were charter members in 1920. They were: Mrs. Clyde Deal, Mrs. D. W. McLaughlin, Mrs. W. A. Shuping, Mrs. Carl Hall, Sr., Mrs. F. G. Hall, Sr., Mrs. R. J. Lyerly, Sr., Mrs. W. J. McCorkle, Mrs. F. D. Patterson, Mrs. W. H. Canup, Mrs. W. A. Cline, Sr., Miss Bessie Julian and Mrs. Roy Safrit.

A scholarship was begun to commemorate the 50th anniversary celebration beginning with \$850 from the council and \$800 donated by the Enon Extension homemakers club. One scholarship of \$200 is given each year to a male or female who qualifies according to criteria set up by a scholarship committee. The council also contributes \$100 to support Rowan's representatives to the 4-H clothing camp.

Rowan's Extension homemakers have moved with the times. Area meetings are held in February, May and September, under the guidance of Extension agents, and during November in individual club settings. Leaders relay their training during the remaining eight months in presenting educational programs in all subject matter areas to their club members. Because of this thrust, club members are becoming more competent in subject matter and leadership roles and Extension agents are serving a larger segment of Rowan's clientele.

Capable leadership is evident by the number of women who have or are serving as officers of the county, district and state organization. The 1974 state president was Mrs. Elmer Lagg who has also served in other capacities on the state level. Rowan County Extension homemakers have received their share of district and state awards. Mrs. F. D. Misenheimer, of the Liberty Club, won the

VEEP state award for voluntary work; and through Mrs. Roscoe Butler's leadership, North Carolina won the national international relations award.

Since the beginning of the home demonstration organization in Rowan County, there have been 21 home economics agents. The late

television personality, Betty Feezor, was once an agent in Rowan County. The present agents are Mrs. Louise P. Slade and Miss Amelia J. Watts.

As of June 30, 1980, Rowan has 795 members in 35 clubs, located in all areas of the county.

Rutherford



The years between 1890-1920 were truly the horse and buggy years. Farms in Rutherford County were large but towns were small. There were few industrial workers and most families made their living by farming. During this era Rutherford County had no paved roads, few telephones and no electricity. A very few well-to-do farms had running water in their homes, using gravity as the method of bringing it into the house. Transportation was "horse and buggy," mule team or oxen; grain was harvested by cradle; farm families produced their own food supply and spun wool, flax and cotton into yarn for weaving cloth and making garments.

At last the time came for an awakening which was to bring many changes to the farm, home and community. In spite of poor transportation, by 1910 well-attended farm institutes were conducted by professors from A&M College in Raleigh who spoke to farmers on soil building, cultural methods, and the importance of good soil.

Miss Steel First Agent

Then in 1912 the first farm agent, J. N. Jones, was appointed in Rutherford County, but it was not until 1918 that the first home agent, Miss Jessie Steel, was appointed. She served from February until May. She was followed by Miss Mary O'Keefe who served from June through December 1918.

Prior to this time foresighted women of the Watkins community had already written to Raleigh asking for help in getting a canning

club organized. Mrs. C. N. Justice organized a canning club on her own in 1916 and later in 1917 a community club and a woman's auxiliary evolved. Perhaps the most unusual accomplishment up to this time was the county's first community fair which was held in the Watkins community. The fair was given national recognition through the *Country Gentleman*, a popular farm magazine.

The county fair which was to follow had as its chairman J. P. D. Withrow. Tragically, the fair could not be held because of the flu epidemic of 1918.

World War I Years

From the outset of the war with Germany, the organizations flourished, teaching food conservation wherever and whenever possible. Direct quotes from meetings during 1918 give us insight into the impact of the clubs:

"Friday was taken up with preparation for the afternoon's meeting at Mount Pleasant, which is an exceedingly live community. Both men and women were urged to join. The girl's canning club has 27 members, all of whom gave good reports on the tomato crop."

"A trip was made to Gilkey to ascertain whether a demonstration club was desired. The meeting had not been advertised since the card announcing it had been in the man-of-the-house's pocket for several days; hence a small attendance with provision made for a future meeting."

"The first canning school in this county was held at a cool pleasant spot near Mt. Pleasant Spring. The new El-Flo canner was installed without a problem and the women and girls worked hard. Selma Price, later Mrs. Clark Harrill, of this club had the best canning record in the county for the year showing 338 cans valued at \$32.75."

(Other canning clubs followed soon in Watkins, Union Mills, Mt. Vernon, Concord,

Rock Corner until there were organizations all over the county.)

"Rally Day, the biggest day we have had yet was held in the Court Room. Lieutenant Governor O. Max Gardner spoke on 'Patriotism and Response—The Farmers' Call.'"

(More recently, rally days have become known as achievement days but continue to this day.)

"Health Officers imposed a quarantine for the remainder of the year prohibiting any public meetings because of the flu epidemic. Health officers have had some trouble with preachers who persisted in violating the Flu-law. The preachers were summoned and punishment inflicted."

The Fireless Cooker

The war ended at last and ushered in what was to be called the "gay twenties." But families living in that time faced still another epidemic, smallpox. Yet progress did not stop. The first encampment for girls and women occurred in 1923. Then came two innovations, the first pressure canner demonstration and the advent of the very popular fireless cooker. At last, the county fair building was completed, and an era of cooperation between Extension and various civic groups brought the first curb market to the county. Mrs. George McKinney, council president, was influential in setting up this first market.

During the 1920's Extension women met with the League of Women Voters, helped in the first school consolidation, and held the first 4-H project leaders school not only for Rutherford but surrounding counties. The 1920's closed with renewed emphasis on nutrition and new interest in school lunches.

With new vigor home demonstration women entered the 1930's, little dreaming the country would face total financial collapse. In 1931 the theme for the achievement program, "Live at Home," found every woman wearing a dress made from Rutherford County textiles. Soon the women were faced with the food shortage in the recently developed hot school lunch program. Consequently, they set about to find the answer. They took food to the schools and even helped to prepare it because of employee shortages. The hospital also suffered from shortage of food but in one club report, Ellenboro, Miss Cleo Burns says: "...

and donated to the hospital 66 cans of fruit and vegetables, one can sausage, one bushel of sweet potatoes, half-bushel of field peas and one gallon of molasses." This report must be multiplied by numerous other clubs who helped to combat the more than 250 cases of pellegra in the county.

As the financial tide began to turn, Rutherford County elected the state president, Mrs. Gordon Reid. The county took the state attendance award three years in succession thus showing that travel had become easier.

In spite of these successes, the county commissioners decided to dispense with the service of a home demonstration agent. As a result 675 people, men and women, held a mass meeting at which Mrs. W. P. Dorsey, later to become the state president, gave a ringing plea on behalf of the need for an agent. At the close of her address, a vote was taken: 500 voted to continue with an agent; only 25 voted to dispense. Naturally, the commissioners rescinded their action, kept the agent, and hired an assistant.

As the 1940's loomed, the women met at the fair ground and made 912 mattresses and 404 comforters.

With the return of prosperity a silver tea was held at the recently completed Union Mills Club House.

World War II Years

With the coming of Pearl Harbor (1941) the work of Extension women was planned for them: victory gardens; knitting for men in uniforms; first aid and home nursing; remodeling of clothing; essay contests on buying bonds; and new cooking methods. Factory work and numerous other tasks, formerly done by men, became the lot of Extension women. The years were hard and grueling but Extension survived.

Begun in preceding years, the Extension reading program was greatly emphasized and strengthened during the 1950's. Mrs. E. E. Barr, vigilant county librarian, was one of the first to observe this growth. Women *were* reading quality books.

Some achievements of the new decade were as follows: dealing with frozen food revolution; pushing the passage of Corn Meal Enrichment Act; and learning the rudiments of modified diets of various chronic diseases. Under the leadership of Extension Agent Jeanne

Ware, cultural arts were emphasized as never before: the state homemakers song was composed by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Cole; the Extension chorus won the mixed chorus award on state level; United Nations tours were begun and have continued in one form or another, although domestic arts and crafts have never been neglected.

Other projects during the 1950's either fostered or begun by Extension women include the cancer clinic; the planning and furnishing of the Mental Health Center; and the construction of a United Nation's flag, later sent by the state to France as a gesture of friendship. Later the council voted to make 60 flags of members of the United Nations. They are used today by any organization of the county.

Community development in Rutherford County was initiated by Extension women led by Mrs. Judson Koone of Gilkey. As a result of those first efforts in the 1950's at least 24 club houses are in active use today. The anxiety over the need for youth programs beyond 4-H club years brought about the Y.M.W. organization.

The Turbulent 1960's

With the coming of the turbulent 1960's, the nuclear age dawned and with it the building of fall-out shelters and the study of survival, quickly followed by civil rights demonstrations. The entire South became aware of the need for cooperative efforts. Rutherford County had a very peaceful transition and black women became faithful members. Miss Ware had early laid the groundwork for such transition.

The age of the consumer ushered in interest in ecology, food additives, labeling, and conservation. Extension also introduced women to their legal rights and public meetings were held. Women have informed themselves and others about drug abuse; pollution; recycling; CPR; mental health; needs of the poor; and other projects such as providing leadership for senior citizen programs including a prolonged study of problems of the aged.

In 1964 Isothermal Community College was chartered. Extension women were among the first to use its facilities and have taken a leading role in continuing and basic education.

The 1970's produced a new tradition: The

Extension Homemakers International Christmas Tree Festival which attracts more than 2,000 people year after year. More than 1,000 pieces of art from county school children were displayed by the cultural arts committee. Needless to say, now that Extension women have affiliated with the Rutherford County arts council cooperative efforts flourish.

Work with Disadvantaged

Disadvantaged families got aid through the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program during the 1970's as three aides conducted their work under Extension supervision.

With the coming of 1976 the Extension council led the county with a copyrighted publication called *Rutherford County Journal*. As a result of this effort the county became aware of its revolutionary heritage. College officials asked the council education leader and the home economics agent to develop a multimedia history of the county. This highly praised piece of work, with its original music, has been shown to over 300 homemakers, to all ninth grade history students, civic clubs, and in almost all churches.

Then in 1979, Rutherford County's 200th birthday, saw Extension women heading up bicentennial tours, festivals over the county, and the development of oral histories. "Back to Basics" was the fitting theme for the 1979 achievement program.

A life-long member Mary Alice Smith Earley in reminiscing says, "I went to the first meeting of the Mount Pleasant Club with my mother. The home demonstration club was organized by Miss Jessie Steele, and the Tomato club, later the 4-H club, by Miss Mary O'Keefe. We've studied many phases of homemaking, food, home beautification, health, crafts, family life, and a host of others. It helped us through the depression of the 1930's. It will also help us get back to basics during this period of inflation and energy conservation of the 80's."

The only three living charter members of the first club, Mary Sue Holland Blanton, Leona Holland Tate and Mary Alice Smith Earley say 4-H, home demonstration and Extension homemakers have been a way of life for them.

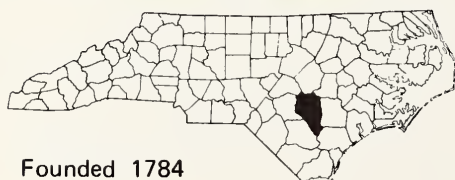
Home agents who have served in Rutherford County include the following:

Miss Jessie Steele, (?) February-May 1918-Tomato Club; Miss Mary O'Keefe, June 1918-December 1918; Miss Lena Barron, Date unknown; Miss Eva Logan, March 1920-1923; Miss Hattie Neill, October 1923-July 1924; Miss Gladys Perry, August 1924-November 1926; Miss Laura Howard, December 1926-November 1932; Miss Myrtice Keller, October 1933-April 1935; Miss Virginia S. Swain, May 1935-August 1936; Miss Nellie Gray, September 1936-August 1937; Miss Ruth Merrick, September 1937-December 1938; Miss Rose Elwood Bryant, Acting Agent-Several Months; and Miss Sue Koone, August 1939-July 1947.

Miss Marie F. Whitmire,* May 1944-July 1945; Miss Mariana Pippin,* April 1946-May 1947; Mildred Sedberry (Stallings), August 1947-1953; Helen Cline,* July 1947-June 1948; Eugenia Ware,* July 1948-May 1953; Eugenia Ware, May 1953-present Agent; Doris Warlick (Deck),* July 1953-August 1958; Jean Slaughter,* August 1958-May 1960; Shirley B. Koone,* June 1960-November 1961; Mildred S. Stallings,* December 1961-June 1978; Denise Greene,* September 1978-August 1979; and Rebecca Ann George,* September 1979-Present Assistant Extension Agent.

* indicates assistant agents

Sampson



It was Miss Lula Cassidy, school supervisor in 1913, who had the inspiration to start girls' canning clubs in Sampson County and talked Mrs. Berta Peterson into becoming instructor. Mrs. Peterson worked so efficiently in her own community that all 16 townships demanded her services. In "horse and buggy" days it was impossible to cover such a big territory, so Mrs. W. B. Lamb, the county's champion canner, was induced to serve the southern half of the county. This became the foundation for home demonstration work, for mother's demonstration clubs were organized in 1914. When Mrs. Peterson gave up the work in 1916, Mrs. Lamb bought an automobile and worked the entire county, thus becoming Sampson's first home demonstration agent. When the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was organized at Raleigh in 1916, Mrs. Lamb was elected its first president.

Proficient in many lines, Mrs. Lamb directed the interests of homemakers through canning, cooking, nutrition, sewing, home management, sanitation, home beautification, and many phases of home and family development. She often declared that she was only the bridge by which knowledge was transferred

from State College and Extension specialists to housewives of Sampson County.

Mrs. Lamb Retires

Mrs. Lamb retired in 1924, and was succeeded for six months by Miss Myrtle Floyd. Then Mrs. R. R. Cusick came to the county for six years of splendid service. It was she who organized a county council, made up of officers of the various clubs, to act as her advisory board. Mrs. O. L. McCullen of the John M. Faison club was the first council president. In 1927, Mrs. R. A. McCullen was elected president of the state federation. That same year Mrs. W. B. Lamb was chosen as one of five master farm homemakers of the state, the first year that North Carolina homemakers had been so honored.

Because of political disturbances no appropriation was made for home demonstration work in the county in 1929. The work was discontinued for 6 months. However, in January 1930, the county council brought pressure to bear on proper authorities, who promised to reinstate the appropriation in July. Clubs used their local funds to finance the county's part of the agent's salary from January until July and Miss Minnie Lee Garrison took over the work.

During the depression, clubs stressed "Live-at-home" projects; canned products for hot school lunches to combat malnutrition in school children; had demonstrations in remodeling clothes; and proudly wore the husband's old suit made into a lady's suit or overcoat.

It was about 1930 that Mrs. E. E. Seay of Turkey won a \$250 first prize in a 10-state bathroom contest, conducted by Southern Ruralist and *Progressive Farmer*. Mrs. Lee Williamson, winner of canning contests in Goldsboro, Fayetteville, and Raleigh, was asked to send an exhibit to a national contest in Chicago. In 1929, Miss Mary Emma Powell was president of the 4-H Clubs of North Carolina, and attended 4-H camp in Washington. Here she met Earl Butz, the 4-H boy from Indiana whom she later married. He later became Secretary of Agriculture during the 1970's.

Home beautification grew in the county under the able leadership of Mrs. J. Sebron Royal, who carried out lessons and projects suggested by such specialists as Miss Pauline Smith and John Harris of State College.

Lorna Langley Takes Over

In January 1939, Miss Garrison moved to Polk County and was succeeded by Miss Lorna Langley. In March of that year clubs of Sampson celebrated their 25th anniversary with a historical pageant. Later at Farm and Home Week in Raleigh, Sampson County had a leading part in "Green 'n Growing."

During the 1940's, Extension homemakers began a very successful curb market held at the community building every Friday morning. A memorial park was also set up honoring men who had served in World War II.

In 1941, Miss Langley's promotion to district agent made way for Miss Margaret Clark to come to Sampson County. She, too, was promoted in 1945 to assistant director of 4-H Clubs. Miss Eleanor Southerland took her place in Sampson until in 1952 she was appointed to do foreign aid work in South America. Miss Emily Teague succeeded Miss Southerland. She retired in 1957 after marrying a Sampsonian. Miss Teague was followed by Mrs. Virginia Evins who served Sampson County until 1962. Mrs. Frances Temple Hubbard became Sampson County home economics agent at that time and has worked with us for the past 17 years.

As a tribute to Sampson County's first home demonstration agent, the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs voted in 1954 to establish the "Mary Lamb Loan Fund." This fund is used to aid worthy Sampson County

girls in attending college to study home economics.

In 1955, Sampson County participated in State Home Demonstration Week by presenting a pageant in Raleigh which traced the history of home demonstration and Extension work.

Easter Bonnets Worn

In 1958, club members proudly wore new Easter bonnets that they had made in hat workshops. During this time home economics agents moved to new offices and a training laboratory.

In 1959, the Franklin club of Harrells spearheaded clean-up, paint-up, fix-up campaigns in their community which resulted in "Finer Carolina" cash prizes amounting to \$1,000 in 3 years.

The home demonstration fair, begun in 1963, became an annual event. Lovely exhibits made by individual club members created much interest in crafts. The fair also included Christmas ideas. The best were selected to be shown on television.

In 1976, Extension homemakers were involved in the commemoration of our country's bicentennial. The Salemburg Extension Homemakers club sponsored a bicentennial exhibit which lasted for three weeks. Numerous old-timey articles were displayed to the 300 people who attended.

During this time, an old-fashioned quilting party was conducted at the Extension office. The many participants enjoyed reviving this sewing skill and method of socialization.

Mrs. Otto Strickland, of the Salemburg Extension Homemakers club, had a special part in the bicentennial observance. She embroidered the county flag, which was hung in the entrance of the agricultural center.

Lap Reading Program

A major emphasis in 1977 was on the lap reading program, which encouraged adults to read to young children. Extension homemakers donated a large number of hand-crafted dolls to the public libraries for use in this program.

In 1978, Mrs. John L. Cooper was awarded the State Volunteer Extension Education Program award.

Sampson County, through the years, has had two state presidents of the Extension homemakers organization, Mrs. R. A. McCullen in 1928, and Mrs. Mae Troublefield

in 1979. Sampson County also had a state president of the home demonstration clubs of North Carolina, Miss Mabel Powell—1948 to 1950.

Scotland



The history of Scotland County Extension clubs extends over a period of 60 years. These years have been filled with growth and improvement in family living, largely motivated by programs and activities promoted by the Extension Service.

The first clubs in Scotland County were called home bureaus, later home demonstration clubs, and presently Extension homemakers clubs. The purpose of the home bureau work which Dr. Jane S. McKimmon of Raleigh had established was to help the rural women.

Out of this grew Extension work in Scotland County which began in 1921 when the county gave us our first home agent, Miss Marian Swain. Miss Swain's first demonstration was "How To Make Biscuits." She gave a measuring cup and baking powder cookbook to everyone attending the meeting. Many of the women loved and respected Miss Swain because of her latest knowledge of the best ways to do many things around the home. During her stay in the county, she worked with projects on canning, preserving, jelly making, refinishing furniture, and shrubbery, and supervised the building and furnishing of a model home.

Curb Market Established

She was instrumental in beginning the first curb market and she organized the first county council of which Mrs. H. W. McLaurin was the first president.

Miss Katherine Millsaps served as an agent from 1925-30. She is best remembered for the red semi-double camellia plants which she ordered for 40¢ each. Several homes in the county have the original plants. Years later

the women of the county named these camellias "Katherine Millsaps."

During the depression Miss Julia McIver was most helpful to the homemakers in the clothing area since her greatest interest was in sewing. She helped the women make foundation patterns and dress forms. Wonder how many of these dress forms can be found stashed away in the ladies' attics? In reminiscing—one homemaker disliked her figure so much that she said she burned her dress form.

Scotland County was without an agent for about 10 years. During the interim, Mrs. H. W. McLaurin served as an emergency agent. The program was largely on conservation. She organized groups for canning which was done through the churches.

In 1944 Grace Newell was sent to our county. Many of the ladies remember her knocking on doors saying, "I'm the home demonstration agent from Scotland County." Under her assistance clubs were reorganized. Miss Newell took the ladies to Farm and Home Week in Raleigh at which time Mrs. E. P. Gibson pledged \$8 for Scotland County to the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund.

Next came Laura Beatty. She settled down here and put up with us for 20 whole years. We could sing her praises for hours. Scotland County was pleased when Sam D. Wright asked Miss Beatty for her hand. They were married July 4, 1952. She was a high-type dynamic agent, well-rounded in all phases of the work. Her specialty was interior decorating and color.

Mrs. Wright's accomplishments were many. She was very interested in "good will and understanding of the United Nations." Because of this Scotland County homemakers began sending delegates on the U. N. study tour in 1952. Since that beginning at least 30 women have gone on this study tour. During that time a unit of a chapter of U. N. Association composed of the delegates functioned in the county to promote United Nations understanding.

Mrs. Gibson Excels

Also, during Mrs. Wright's tenure, Mrs. E. P. Gibson, a very influential and dynamic person, went through the ranks of home demonstration work serving as president from the local, to county, to district and then to state president of the N. C. Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs in 1955-56. Mrs. Gibson has continued to be the same dynamic type person in supporting Extension homemakers club work throughout the years.

Mrs. Wright reorganized the curb market in 1956 which flourished for many years in the Legion home. Under her leadership the women in Scotland County joined together in proving to our county commissioners the need for office space, an assembly room, and demonstration kitchen in the new Scotland County courthouse. Her dream became a reality in that Extension Service won space and was housed in the new courthouse. Mrs. Wright never had the privilege of working in this beautiful new facility, but she actually saw the building completed. Her retirement came early due to a terminal illness.

During her tenure, Mrs. Wright saw the need for an assistant home agent and, through her persuasion, the commissioners hired the first assistant home agent in 1960, Miss Barbara Ann Jones.

Following Miss Jones was Mrs. Ann Braswell, who worked as assistant home agent for about two years before becoming home agent in 1965 following Mrs. Wright's death. Mrs. Braswell had the privilege of being the first home agent in the new building. She led in the selection of furnishings and supplies for the new building. The club women skimped, begged, borrowed, and worked on projects for many years to raise money to buy the appliances and equipment for the demonstration kitchen.

Another strong, dynamic homemaker club member, Mrs. W. W. Thompson, was elected as 16th district president in 1965, after having served in about every capacity at the local and county level. It was during this time that the first county newsletter, "The Buzzer," was started. It has brought "up to date information" to the homemakers in the years that have followed. Also, a point system was begun and used for many years to select the out-

standing Extension homemaker in the county and the outstanding club. This stimulated interest for many years.

Upon Mrs. Braswell's resignation in 1970, to become a full-time homemaker, came another energetic home agent, Mrs. Brenda McAuley Mitchell, whose main interests were in crafts, home decorating and home improvement. In 1975 Scotland County homemakers pioneered the neighborhood watch program which has "snowballed" throughout North Carolina.

Butterbean Sheller Donated

A butterbean sheller was built and given to the county council and was located in a homemaker's home. The profits made went to the county council treasurer for local projects. It was thought to be one of the first shellers in our locale. This invention has been a great time saver for homemakers. It was sold in 1979 to a local homemaker.

Miss Susan Wood came as our agent in 1976. She was helpful and cooperated with the bicentennial commission on opening an old-fashioned curb market, which was located in a log cabin that had been moved into town by the commission. She left Extension work after being in Scotland County for about a year.

In August 1978, Mrs. Ann Braswell assumed leadership in the homemaker club again after five years of homemaking. She is diligently working to enroll new members and organize new clubs. Presently we have 14 clubs with approximately 225 members.

In February 1980, the Extension Offices were moved into a new headquarters—our new county governmental complex. To celebrate this opening, the homemakers clubs furnished and served refreshments at the open house.

During Homemakers Club Week in May 1980, and in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Extension homemakers clubs in North Carolina, the local county council entertained at a tea honoring new members and new clubs.

Homemakers continue to work diligently in carrying on their club programs in Scotland County. They are eager to realize the state objective—"Each One Reach One—We've only begun!!"

Stanly



Founded 1841

Records indicate home demonstration work in Stanly County began in 1917 with 13 clubs. Records also show that women began attending farm women's short courses in Raleigh in 1926. There were rat killing contests by clubs in 1928-29 and talks on cure of pellagra. Pressure cookers became popular in 1929-30 and 25 homemakers purchased one. By 1932 there were 15 organized clubs with 397 members.

Some highlights over the years include the following:

1938—District federation—41 women attended and 21 toured furniture exhibition in High Point. Fifteen clubs had booths at county fair.

1940—Projects included clothing and mattress making. Ninety-seven club members attended district federation and 15 attended state federation meeting.

1941—A mattress-making center was producing 30 mattresses a day. Over 1,000 garments were made for the Red Cross chapter. Ten dollars was given to Jane S. McKimmon Fund.

1943—No agent for six months, yet two clubs were organized.

1947—Four buses needed to take 135 women to the federation meeting in Charlotte. Attendance gavel won by county.

1950—Club women won the attendance gavel for the third consecutive year at district federation meeting.

1951—Five hundred seventy-five aluminum trays and 75 tea coasters made. Also, a choral group was organized with 35 members.

\$400 to Building Fund

1960—Over \$400 was given to state home demonstration building fund. In observance of home demonstration week, each club gave a book to the county library. The 4-H Development Fund received \$200 and delegates attended farm home week, United Nations and citizenship seminar.

1962—The Christmas idea house was begun.

1964—Mrs. Ray Hatley elected district president. Mrs. David Mauney was elected state recording secretary.

1965—State fair booth on "Tots to Teens." Nita Frank spoke on her six months in Israel at achievement day; and 135 gifts were sent to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh at Christmas.

1967-1968—First southwestern district Extension homemakers day held at Catawba College with Stanly members as ushers.

1970—Thirty-five members attended 50th anniversary celebration of N. C. homemakers in Raleigh.

1972—Flurry of new activities. Music camp held at Camp Barnhardt in August to learn crafts. Annex club gave furniture to the new Extension office waiting area, and the club members served refreshments for the Courthouse dedication.

Meals for Disadvantaged

1973—Meals served to EFNEP low-income camp for third year.

1974—Mrs. Frank Turner received A & P Leadership award. Homemakers gave \$269.75 to 4-H Development Fund.

1975—Mrs. Leo Austin elected southwestern district Extension homemaker treasurer. One hundred seven club members went to district day wearing fifty 1776 costumes.

1978—Six club safety leaders attended N. C. Rural Safety Council's annual meeting. Mrs. Muriel Gill, county POW safety chairman, won first place as adult volunteer and the leaders received second place group award. Katherine Kimrey won in the "I Remember When" essay. The citizenship committee sponsored a slogan contest for trash pickup. The Betty Watson Scholarship Fund was established.

1979—Mrs. Q. C. Mabry elected to serve as 1980 southwestern district second vice president. Lucy Manly, New London, won two blue ribbons in the district cultural arts contest and one for the state. A bazaar was held at Quenby Mall to benefit the Betty Watson Scholarship Fund.

1980—Mrs. Connie Sharpe represented Extension at the Mini-White House Conference on Aging in Jacksonville, Florida. The family resource management chairman conducted a



In 1978, Stanly County homemakers made 180 Christmas stockings for patients at McCain center.

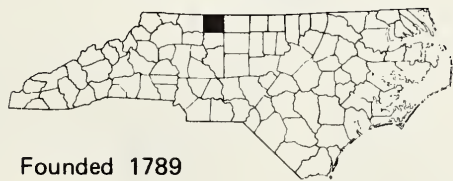
consumer information day.

There have been numerous other activities conducted during the years. Many events not listed are held annually. Through the years, community involvement and leadership development has become more evident.

Over the years club membership and clubs

have come and gone—but through it all, the program has held fairly steady. Although some clubs have disbanded over time, Stanly still had 22 clubs with 390 members in 1980. Kendall Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1961 and Stony Hill Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1969.

Stokes



The foundation for a home demonstration program in Stokes County was started around 1935, when Miss Laura Ellington and a group of Stokes County women visited the county commissioners to encourage the program. Then in 1936, Miss Verna Stanton began as home agent sharing her time between Stokes and Surry Counties. Several clubs were started, with Mrs. N. S. Mullican elected as first county chairman. Women began to see the opportunities open to them through home demonstration club work. The purpose of

home demonstration clubs was to improve conditions of the home and make the home more livable and to make family life more wholesome, satisfying and healthful.

The clubs which Jane S. McKimmon, a pioneer home demonstration leader, called the “farm women’s college” really got a foothold when the first full-time agent came. Miss Ellen Jenkins, who came on March 1, 1938, got 11 clubs going and the Stokes County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs really became organized. Foods and nutrition were the major subjects that first year. The joint meeting of the farm men and women, held in 1939, was destined to be an annual affair which brought outstanding speakers in many fields of farm and home improvement.

In 1940 the first achievement program was held with 40 women in attendance. Stokes County was hostess to the sixth district

federation meeting at King School building with 650 attending. An outstanding activity that year was the mattress project.

World War II Years

During the war years the clubs stressed the "food and feed" program. Mrs. Worth Gentry of the King club was elected to serve as president of the sixth district federation for two years. Mrs. G. E. Stone served as vice president of the sixth district in 1942. Clothing conservation was also stressed during these years with the motto, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." Twelve hundred garments and bandages were made for the Red Cross by Stokes County homemakers.

In 1944 the home demonstration club leaders carried the program for five months without an agent. Twenty-six meetings were conducted by these leaders with 380 women in attendance. The first attendance gavel was awarded to the Sandy Ridge club at the achievement program that year.

Two new clubs, Danbury and Germanton,

were organized in 1945. Club members assisted with the Grange movement in the county and, in cooperation with the Blue Cross Hospital Association, secured hospital insurance for 60 farm families. The reading program originated with "better reading projects" and reading certificates were awarded.

In 1946, another new club, Piney Mountain, became active. The outstanding achievement of that year was the work the club women did in cooperation with the commissioners to establish a county library. Mrs. Paul Lewis served as secretary of the sixth district federation.

In 1947, the Reynolds and Walnut Cove clubs were organized, making a total of 12 home demonstration clubs with enrollment of 260 members. Stokes County was hostess for the sixth district federation meeting which was held in King on June 11. In 1948, six new clubs were formed and another in 1949, making a total of 18. Mail box improvement made its first beginning in these years and the club women published their first home demonstra-



Stokes County Extension Homemakers gather for a hooked rugs workshop in 1949.



Stokes County home demonstration choir was organized in 1953.

tion cookbook in 1948, selling 2,000 copies, which netted them \$1580. The council voted to give \$1200 of their cookbook money towards a 4-H camp to be erected in the area, and the kitchen in the home agent's office was to get the remaining \$380. More and more club members began to read books from their county library which acquired a bookmobile in March. Four advanced and 20 regular certificates were awarded in 1949.

Club work continued to progress in the county. The Capella, Flat Shoals, and State Line clubs joined the organization. The district federation meeting was held in King in 1950 at the First Baptist Church. The theme for the program was centered around "The United Nations" with each club putting on exhibits representing different countries. The organization was honored when one of its members, Mrs. H. E. Carter, of Sandy Ridge, was declared state winner over 2600 contestants in the essay on "Twelve Reasons Why I Belong To the Home Demonstration Club."

Fair Booths Begin

The clubs began in 1951 to have fair booths, with 11 clubs exhibiting at the King fair.

In 1952, Poplar Springs, North View, K-Fork, and Snow Hill clubs were organized. This was also the year that the club women pledged \$4000 to help build the Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital. Fund-raising campaigns began. They decided to try their luck with another cookbook since the first issue was such a success. Mrs. Tom Preston, chairman of the first cookbook, again helped

the club women print a wonderful new edition. Five thousand copies were printed and the \$4000 pledge was fulfilled.

Health and safety programs were at the head of the list in 1952 and 1953. Stokes led all counties in the state in the home nursing work with 150 women receiving home nursing certificates.

In 1953 a home demonstration choir was organized under the direction of Mrs. O. L. Rains of King and Mrs. George Neal, Jr., of Walnut Cove. A very successful Rural Church Music School was also conducted. The achievement program was held jointly with the farm men and depicted "A Year of Progress."

Home demonstration club work continued to expand with new clubs being formed at Prestonville, Stokesburg, Brown Mountain, and Germanton making a total of 21 clubs with an enrollment of 500 women in 1956. Mrs. D. C. Kirby of Danbury was elected 26th district chairman.

In 1958, much emphasis was placed on housing, remodeling of homes, the family food supply, and clothing. The achievement program was a summary of "Progress Through Opportunities, Responsibilities, and Achievements."

In conjunction with the health department, the home demonstration clubs sponsored a series of seven classes on "Eat to Control Your Weight." Better meal planning was stressed throughout 1959.

Dress and Hat Revues

During most of these years, home demonstration members looked forward to celebrating National Home Demonstration

Week with a dress revue featuring members in garments of their own creation. The year 1961 had an additional highlight with a hat revue of fashionable hats made in 12 workshops throughout the county. Another popular workshop was on making lamps. Concern for and assistance to senior citizens increased. Members began a volunteer service as hostesses at Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital.

In 1962 much emphasis was on refinishing furniture and successful workshops were held. Ninety-eight women modeled in the dress revue entitled "1962 Cavalcade of Cottons." The home demonstration Christmas fair originated in 1962, with all members donating items to be sold with the proceeds going to the county council treasury.

The Stokes County young homemakers program began with 250 non-club members. A large percentage of these were working mothers with children under six years old. A monthly newsletter was sent to them.

Importance was given to wills and inheritance laws in 1966. It was during this year that structural changes took place in the organization and the name was changed from home demonstration clubs to Extension homemakers clubs.

Pilot EFNEP Program

Stokes was chosen as one of the counties to pilot the expanding nutrition program which supplied trained aides to visit underprivileged homes to teach how to serve nutritious foods while stretching the food dollar.

Since 1970 marked the 50th anniversary of Extension homemakers, the spring recognition program featured a fashion show entitled "You've Come A Long Way, Ladies."

In 1971 Extension homemakers supported programs for the mentally retarded and physically handicapped by contributing \$800 from the proceeds of the Christmas bazaar for two years. Homemakers also helped to sponsor a nutritional summer camp and camp for retarded children.

"Happenings of Extension Homemaker Year" was the theme of the spring recognition program in 1973. Club members were privileged to have Miss Doris Richards of Wales, Great Britain, visit them at a council meeting where she discussed creativity in stitchery and displayed some of her beautiful

works. Many members acquired pen pals from this visit and continue this correspondence.

Five Stokes club members participated in the "Sew More in '74" event at Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem where they modeled the garments they had made. Stokes County was especially proud of their candidate for Mother of the Year, Mrs. Albert Phillips, who won the district and state titles in 1974 and competed in the national contest in New York. Helping the elderly was emphasized and clubs began sponsoring birthday parties in the nursing and rest homes in the county.

Human Abuse Seminar

Francisco and East Stokes joined the organization as new clubs in 1975. Kingston Forest was welcomed as a new club in 1977. A human abuse seminar was conducted and over 200 people attended the spring recognition program to hear Mr. John Byington, chairman of the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Another highlight of this night was the unveiling of the wall hanging, a project started in November 1976. Each club did a square of needlework depicting something historical or unusual about the club, community, or county. A large square in the center of the hanging was the county name and Extension homemakers emblem which drew the 15 clubs together as one. This project represented 500 hours of work and the cooperation of hundreds of individuals. On May 9, 1977, the wall hanging was mounted in the county Extension office where it is to be permanently displayed as a reminder to all who visit that office that the Stokes County Extension homemakers are proud of their organization, their heritage and their county.

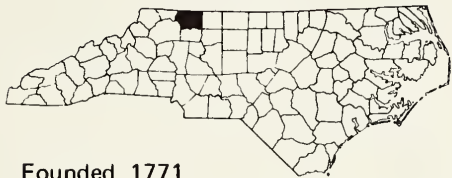
The "tasting party" of the 1978 spring recognition program was thoroughly enjoyed by more than 200 people. Recipe books of the foods sampled were available. The homemakers also published a county cookbook with part of the profits going to the individual club treasury and the remainder to the council treasury, thereby replacing the annual club donations.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of North Carolina extension homemakers, efforts are being made in 1980 to double the membership. New clubs organized are Pinnacle and Lawsonville.

Many Extension homemakers clubs have been organized and several disbanded since the organization began 44 years ago. Thirty home economics agents have served the county and there are presently 16 clubs with 215 members. Through the years, interests have spanned all areas of home economics. The influences and effects have been

widespread throughout the county and the dedication of the members is proven by their attendance records. At the 1980 spring recognition banquet, Mrs. Sadie Amos of Sandy Ridge was recognized for 20 years of perfect attendance, Mrs. Madeline Long of King for 21 years, and Mrs. Margaret Amos of Sandy Ridge for 23 years.

Surry



The historical roots of home demonstration work in Surry County may be traced to the efforts of Miss Margaret McLucas (later Mrs. I. W. Barber of Mt. Airy) who came to the county in 1916 to show farm women better ways of doing the practical everyday things involved in homemaking. Through her pioneering spirit, Canning and Tomato clubs were organized in eight communities across the county.

However, some difficulty was encountered in perfecting these organizations, and, after 2 years, the work was discontinued. In October 1935, Miss Verna Stanton became the home demonstration agent for both Stokes and Surry Counties. In 1936, she became a full-time Extension agent in Surry. During her tenure in office, she organized the eight charter clubs: Union Cross, Beulah, Pilot, Westfield, Siloam, Salem Fork, Dobson, and Mountain Park.

Mrs. Grace Pope Brown performed an outstanding service in the county as home demonstration agent from 1938 until her retirement in 1956.

Canner Kept Busy

“A pot of gold” to Salem Fork club members was the pressure canner won after completing one of Mrs. Brown’s canning classes. “During the canning season that followed, the canner hardly had time to cool off before another homemaker was ready to use it,” said Mrs. Raymond Brown, a member of the Salem Fork club.

Occasionally, Mrs. Grace Brown was called on to perform special services in the county—such as the time she helped club women make 4,092 cotton mattresses from surplus cotton between August of 1940 and September 1941. “She looked at mattresses more hours each day than she slept on one!” wrote a woman’s editor for the November 20, 1949 copy of the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

“During the war years, knitting classes were organized in connection with the Red Cross and numbers of knitted garments were made by home demonstration club members to be shipped to servicemen. Home nursing and first aid courses were held at different locations in the county, giving the women a spirit of being helpful in the war effort,” said Mrs. Arthur Graham from the Copeland club.

The Surry County home demonstration chorus was organized in 1950 with Mrs. Kester Sink as director and Mrs. Madge Badgett Rollins as accompanist. The chorus highlighted many occasions and meetings in the county and was cited in the *Elkin Tribune* for outstanding performances at “Farm and Home Week” and with the “State Choral Group.”

The spring festival of club women from a five-county area has been sponsored by the Elkin Kiwanis Club for the past 35 years. This unique occasion received full-page coverage in the August 1960 issue of *The Southern Planter*. A reporter wrote: “Space will not allow us to tell all that took place at the spring festival. We have pictured here some of the highlights. What we cannot picture is the feeling the club women have about their meeting.”

When Extension homemakers converged on the Reeves Community Center in Mt. Airy in the fall of 1980, it was for their 44th achievement day program, and it marked the 28th consecutive year that Mt. Airy had sponsored

this exciting event. The same spirit of cooperation and understanding is continued into mid-summer when Extension homemakers host a picnic and provide entertainment for the Kiwanians and their wives.

Reading Program Since 1941

The reading program in the home demonstration clubs dates back to 1941, according to a manuscript prepared by Mrs. Hugh Atkinson from the Siloam club. At that time the readers obtained practically all their books from the State Library in Raleigh, ordering and returning them as read. Mrs. Atkinson wrote: "During the first year, seven reading certificates were issued." By way of contrast, reading requirements as outlined by the state were met by 192 Extension homemakers during 1979.

Club women were instrumental in securing the first county library, established in 1945.

In the 1950's, several club members joined tours to the United Nations and UN flags were made in the different clubs in the county. At the 1960 achievement day program, these flags were presented by Extension homemakers wearing costumes characteristic of the nation each represented.

The "Each One—Reach One" program was emphasized in the 1960's, and in one year alone, home demonstration members shared their home economics information with 708 non-members. Through the Bride's Package Program, young homemakers received helpful data. In 1960, 100 brides were handed these packages.

The prevention and treatment of child abuse has for sometime been one area of concern in the county. In the 1970's, a child abuse seminar proved to be enlightening. As a follow-up, the Surry County Agricultural Extension Service and the Surry Friends of Youth sponsored a drama, "Dessie," performed by professionals to an audience of 200 interested people.

Celebrate Bicentennial

Extension homemakers entered into the spirit of the bicentennial celebration in 1976 with an open house observance at the agricultural building in Dobson. The decorations, displays, refreshments, and costumed hostesses were in keeping with the bicentennial motif. Surry County commemorative

plates were gifts to those who attended. The county council co-sponsored this occasion.

Realizing the rich heritage of Surry County, several Extension homemakers discussed during the bicentennial celebration possible methods of displaying both their heritage and their needlework skills. With the appointment of a planning committee, preliminary work began in 1976 for a quilt/wall hanging depicting historic landmarks, buildings, and homes in the county. Embroidery or applique techniques were used in making the 25 squares that were assembled and quilted.

At the 1979 achievement day program, the completed quilt was unveiled. By special invitation, the quilt was displayed in March 1980 at an Appalachian studies conference at East Tennessee University. The quilt is on permanent display at the agricultural building. This quilt will long be cherished by Extension homemakers in Surry County.

Surry County Extension homemakers have participated in two exchange visits with other Extension homemakers. In May 1974, club members from Surry County spent four days in the homes of homemakers in Logan, Kentucky, and participated in tours of Mammoth Cave, Union Shaker Settlement, and the Kentucky bluegrass area. The highlight for the week was a special dinner held for the visiting homemakers.

In May 1978, 35 Surry County homemakers visited North Carolina's Carteret County and the homemakers there. Historic Tryon Palace and the town of Beaufort along the Atlantic Beach area and meals of fresh seafood were highlights of this visit.

Extension homemakers in Surry County returned the hospitality to both groups of ladies by extending an invitation to them to visit Surry. Tours of outstanding sites in the county along with the drives in the colorful Blue Ridge Mountains were included in the agenda for the visitors.

Preventive Nutrition Pushed

The fall food show is remembered as one of the great programs of the 1970's. The day's activities included speakers, exhibits, local entertainment, demonstrations, and some decorating ideas by Extension homemaker club members. Extension homemakers' prize-winning recipes were served at the luncheon to 200 people. Mrs. Ann Tyndall, home



In Surry County a holiday tour of homes means a chance to see handmade decorations and taste homemade goodies.

economics Extension agent, said the purpose of the show was to emphasize the importance of more fruits and vegetables in the diet. She said, "Preventive nutrition is the underlying theme of the food show."

Three area homes were open for "The Holiday Tour of Homes" on December 6 and 7, 1978, and more than 400 people made the entourage to get into the holiday spirit. Extension homemakers decorated the homes and furnished refreshments for the guests. Themes for the decorations were: "A Child's View of Christmas;" "An Old Fashioned Christmas;" and "Christmas—A Gathering of Nature's Beauty." Brenda Rose, Extension agent who coordinated the tours commented, "It amazes me how well these women work together and come up with so many original ideas."

A most rewarding program, "The EFNEP Youth Pilot Project," has stirred much enthusiasm since its initiation into the county in October 1979, to teach nutrition to youth in small-group situations. Beth Norman, an experienced aide, is working with 30 Extension

homemaker volunteers who teach nutrition to 100 children.

Several young couples were on hand to learn more about building or buying a home when the Surry County Agricultural Extension Service sponsored a series of five evening classes on the subject. To highlight the study course, the class toured five homes in the area to observe some outstanding features and interior decorating ideas.

5,056 Cookbooks Sold

Extension homemakers were most successful with the 1980 brand new hardback cookbooks that went on sale at \$5 each. Total number sold was 5,056 and a re-order of 3,000 additional copies has been posted.

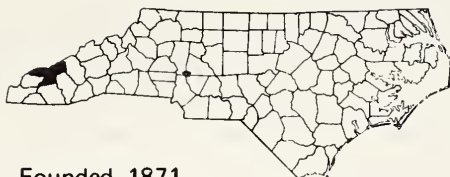
Programs, other than those already mentioned, that focused on the child included: "The International Year of the Child" seminar; summer camp for EFNEP children; a safety program designed for the protection of children; and sewing, cooking, and craft classes.

Crafts for the crafty-minded, money management, an "energy awareness" seminar, "slim and sassy" classes, service projects, writing wills, making draperies, dress-making, and a special hat-making workshop in 1960 were all attended and well received. All kinds of food and nutrition classes, tasting sprees or complete meals prepared and served in style were enjoyable occasions as well as times for learning, and they, too, were well attended.

For the third consecutive year, Surry Extension homemakers received the award for having the largest percentage of membership increase of any county in the state. The total number of clubs in the county at this date stands at 25 clubs and a total membership of 475.

The history of Surry County Extension Homemakers clearly presents a picture of the involvement of the members eager to grasp and hold on to the many opportunities and challenges for service, leadership development, and continuing education that seem unlimited in scope and unmeasurable in depth and understanding.

Swain



Founded 1871

There are no official records of Extension work in Swain County prior to 1935. However, Mrs. Robert Marr remembers a Mrs. Jane Cobb who came to Swain County and taught women how to can green beans and tomatoes in glass jars. They canned in wash tubs over an open fire in the early 1920's.

Mrs. Marr also remembers Carl Fleming, an Extension agent who came to Swain County. He visited the Marrs on Brush Creek when Gladys Marr was just a baby in 1923.

Mrs. Jura Miller remembers a demonstration by a woman on how to can green beans at the old county home on Deep Creek. She was a Mrs. Fleming. This demonstration took place in the early 1920's. Beans were canned over an open fire in wash tubs that were used to wash clothes at the county home.

Ora Lee Sossamon remembers Mr. and Mrs. Willard Anderson who came to Swain County in 1928. Mr. Anderson was county agent for several years.

In 1935, five clubs were organized. They were: Judson and Bushnell clubs (relocated when the TVA Fontana Dam was built) and

Cold Springs and Hightower clubs (disbanded and absorbed by Ela and Alarka clubs which are still active).

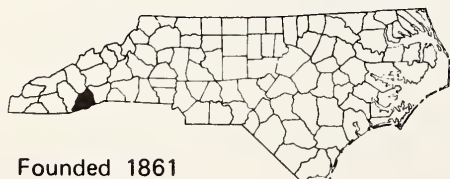
Mary Smith First Agent

The first home agent we have a record of is Mary Margaret Smith who worked half time in Haywood County from September 1935 to July 1936. Miss Smith organized three clubs with an average of 10 members. Some of the ladies who were members taught or worked in WPA sewing rooms. An outbreak of measles coupled with a very cold bad winter hindered the work. However, the home demonstration program managed to reach about 200 of Swain County's 1,600 families. The total number of club members was about 124.

One of the first projects was a garden contest sponsored by the Extension Service in cooperation with Chilean Nitrate Educational Bureau. Thirty-four women entered the contest and Mrs. Nora Lindsay of the Cold Springs club won first prize and Mrs. Phil Crisp of Judson club won second prize.

Mrs. Geraldine Person Hyatt became the first full-time agent for Swain County in August 1936 and remained until July 1944. After Mrs. Hyatt left, we had a succession of agents including Helen Higdon. Miss Pansie Deal came to Swain County in September 1944 to stay until her retirement on December 31, 1975. Marilyn Robbins came to Swain County July 1, 1976, as home economics agent.

Transylvania



Founded 1861

During the summer of 1918, when the vines in the gardens hung heavily with beans, Miss Lula M. Cassidy, with the title of home demonstration agent, came to the valley of Pisgah Forest. Miss Cassidy visited in the homes, speaking of canning methods, and offered to show all who wished to know the correct methods. The school house was the

center of community activities, so this was the meeting place for women to take their homegrown beans, and here they learned safe methods of canning.

The women yearned to know more about labor-saving devices, food preparation methods, sewing techniques, as well as other arts and skills to assist with homemaking. Thus, the first home demonstration club began in the valley of Davidson River. Mrs. J. P. Cheek was a charter member and the first president. A quote from an earlier statement by Mrs. Cheek, "Words cannot express what the home demonstration program has meant to me; it has given me a new way of life. I still grow a garden, and I enjoy quilting and reading."

Full-Time Agent in 1941

A group of local women and Miss Anna C. Rowe, western district agent, persuaded the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners to appropriate funds for a full-time home demonstration agent, so in 1941 this became a reality. Miss Annabelle Teague (Powers) became the first full-time agent. Another first during this time was the organization of a county council. Mrs. J. A. Glazener was the first president.

The years passed and the home demonstration club served as a means for the homemakers to gain the knowledge and necessary skills to help with the family budget and to extend the family income.

Mrs. E. H. Mackey, Sr., a charter member of the Little River club said, "Home demonstration work has meant more to me than any other organization except the church. It has helped me to see life at its best, for myself and others. It has helped my house to become a home."

Mrs. Leroy Waldrop, a charter member of the Gladly Branch club, said, "The fellowship with the other members means so much to me. I feel that the demonstrations given at meetings have been a great help to make me a better homemaker and citizen of my community."

The previous quotes were taken from a history written more than 25 years ago, but similar thoughts are expressed today.

Chorus Organized

In the early 1950's Transylvania County had an organized home demonstration chorus. Anne Benson Priest was the home agent at the time, and the music leader and chorus director was Mrs. G. C. Yehling, Jr. Mrs. Boyce Bishop served as the accompanist. There were 28 women in the chorus, and they made numerous public appearances for various organizations including home demonstration district meetings, church benefits, Sylvan Valley folk festival, western North Carolina roundup, regular church worship services, and the national home demonstration meeting held in Raleigh.

As years have passed, the organization's name has changed to Extension homemakers and the agents' title to home economics Extension agent.

From the early organizations of Pisgah

Forest, Little River, Cedar Mountain and Brevard, the homemaker is still interested in her home and the new ideas available through Extension homemaker activities.

Extension Homemakers Association serves as a means of continuing education outside a classroom setting on an informal scale. Continuing education opportunities have extended beyond the county and state levels, as more than two dozen ladies from Transylvania County have participated in "University Days on Wheels" coordinated by Mrs. Ada Dalla Pozza, state agent, home economics. Two have continued their learning opportunities, even out of the country, as they participated in a goodwill education tour to parts of Europe in 1978. The two are Mrs. David Garren and Mrs. Clyde Seay.

Leadership Awards

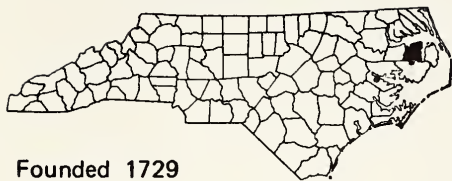
Leadership responsibilities continue to be taken by Extension homemakers. The A & P Tea Company recognizes outstanding leaders annually. Four leaders have been presented the A & P Leadership award during the past years. The company gives each winning leader a silver tray, engraved with her name. The four from Transylvania County are: Mrs. Clarence F. Allison, Sr., Mrs. Clyde Summey, Mrs. Edwin Rice, and Mrs. Clyde Seay.

Additional leadership roles have included positions as officers. Our county has been represented on the state executive board by Mrs. Clarence F. Allison, Sr., who served as state corresponding secretary in 1969 and as state chairman of the International Program of Work Committee in 1972. An added honor bonus goes to Mrs. Allison also for her entry in the creative writing contest. Her story was selected to be included in the book, *I Remember When*, edited by Mrs. I. T. Valentine, Sr. in 1978. Mrs. Allison wrote about "Hog Killin' Time in North Carolina 1923."

A portion of the National Extension Homemakers Council creed exemplifies the attitude of Transylvania County Extension homemakers:

"As homemakers of these United States, we will strive to promote a better way of life for all through fellowship, continuing education and service; to provide guidance in our homes and communities for the uniting of people to make the world a better place in which to live."

Tyrrell



Founded 1729

Home demonstration work began in Tyrrell County on January 26, 1931 with Mrs. Georgia Piland as the first home demonstration agent. Eight home demonstration clubs were organized with 150 members. Scuppernong was the first club to organize on February 5, 1931. In October of that year, the first county council was organized. Mrs. W. C. Owens was the first president. Other officers were: vice president—Mrs. R. B. Weatherly; secretary—Mrs. J. H. Woodard; assistant secretary—Mrs. S. N. Woodard. On November 11, 1931, the first achievement day was held with 250 people attending.

In July 1933, home demonstration work was discontinued by the county commissioners. The women were very disappointed and vowed to some day revive the work in Tyrrell County.

Miss Strickland Hired

Finally in June 1939, the home demonstration work was reinstated. A Nash County native, Miss Mary Blanche Strickland, began work as home agent. Ten clubs were reorganized with 153 members. January 1940 marked reorganization of Tyrrell county council with Mrs. L. L. Gibbs, president. One of the first projects was to knit sweaters for the Red Cross. Also during this time, the Extension homemakers started the annual commissioners luncheon to show their appreciation to the commissioners for their support. This continues today.

During 1941, Tyrrell County was hostess to the 15th district federation (Beaufort, Martin, Bertie, Washington, Pitt, and Tyrrell Counties) with the Honorable J. M. Broughton, Governor of North Carolina, as speaker.

In 1946, efforts were made by Extension homemakers, along with the Extension staff, to improve housing and farms in Tyrrell County. In observance of National Home Demonstration Week, they set up an exhibit in White's department store of a model farmstead.

Miss Mary Ann Beam (Combs) began work

as home agent in 1947. Tyrrell County was a part of the 25th district federation at this time. One new club was organized in 1950—Kilkenny.

In 1948, electricity was introduced into Tyrrell County. Many of the club members had saved for years and were some of the first to purchase equipment. Mrs. J. A. Spencer from the Creeks club said, "I know now I was born 30 years too soon." Mrs. W. B. Spencer said, "With a hard surface road by my home and electricity in my home, it is better than living in the city..."

In 1950, Mrs. L. L. Gibbs was district chairman. During the 1950's, Extension homemakers assisted with the cancer fund, the heart fund, T.B., crippled children, Red Cross, and bloodmobile. Not only did homemakers support these organizations financially, but they also provided transportation to and from the Bloodmobile and registered people.

Assist Health Nurse

In 1952, home demonstration clubs assisted the county health nurse with the preschool clinics. During this year, Mrs. James Davenport was also a delegate to the national meeting held in Raleigh in October.

In January 1955, Mrs. Ann Evans Davenport became home agent. Alligator, Scotia, Town and Country, and Cross Landing Clubs were organized while Kilkenny reorganized earlier.

In 1960, Mrs. Orville Howett was district first vice president, later to be president. Flower shows during this time were an annual event. Also in the 1960's, several women from Tyrrell County participated in the United Nations study tour. They were: Mrs. W. S. Carawan, Mrs. D. A. Simmons, Mrs. R. S. Knight, and Mrs. Lonnie E. Liverman.

For a community service project, the Extension homemakers council bought, made, and hung draperies in the county library. The committee consisted of Mrs. D. M. Bridgeman, Mrs. Orville Howett, and Mrs. Lloyd Pledger.

In 1962, the Lindsey Warren Bridge in Tyrrell County was dedicated. Extension homemakers helped to serve the meal to honor the occasion.

Curb Market Opened

Extension homemakers in the spring of 1963

opened a curb market to sell not only garden vegetables and fruits but baked goods. The market opened once a week on Friday to attract beachgoers through Tyrrell County. Not only was it supplemental income for the homemakers, but it also provided much enjoyment. Some of the regular sellers were Mrs. J. S. Davenport, Mrs. L. R. Barnes, Mrs. D. V. Spencer, Mrs. Charlie Walker, Mrs. Lena Walker, and Mrs. Willard Cooper. Sales from the market in 1965 were \$1,438.35. This market continued seasonally for 14 years and disbanded in 1977.

In 1966 Mrs. Dan Davis served as chairman of the 24th district and in 1968, Mrs. Charles W. Spruill, was vice president of the northeastern district Extension homemakers.

In October 1969, Tyrrell County was hostess to the district meeting. Due to lack of facilities, the event was held in Edenton at the National Guard Armory with Mrs. C. W. Spruill of Tyrrell County presiding.

In 1971, Extension homemakers celebrated their 50th anniversary as a state organization by giving a play called "Yesterday and Today." Furniture used in the play was refinished and caned by local club women. Some of their projects in 1971 included concessions at the craftsman's fair, sponsoring the 4-H livestock show supper, and sponsoring a girl to Girls State. The house and house furnishings club leaders toured the Crawford house and Wills Wayside.

In 1972, Mrs. Lula Belle Bridgeman was a nominee for the A & P Leadership award. Mrs. Alma Dean Cooper was district 2nd vice president.

During 1973 and 1974, the women were involved in compiling a booklet for newcomers to the county. This told dates and times of events in the county.

Extension Homemakers in 1974 began to sponsor 4-H girls to clothing camp. This continues today.

Bicentennial Programs

With 1976 rolling around the corner, the homemakers started concentrating on the bicentennial. They constructed a book of recipes which they later sold, constructed bicentennial dolls for the state convention, and also bought draperies for the Extension office auditorium. They also made a float for the local Christmas parade.

In 1977, Alma Dean Cooper served as state coordinating secretary. During 1977, the Extension homemakers began collecting stamps for the Bangladesh food project. They have continued this project and have sent in a total of 300,000 stamps. Also during that year, several Extension homemakers participated actively in the lap-reading projects at the nursery school and elementary school. Extension homemakers participating included Sally Woolard, Rita Boockholdt, Fran Thompson, Rose Harrell, and Catherine Harrell.

In 1978, Tyrrell County Extension homemakers made cloth books for preschoolers and presented them to the kindergarten, library, and Day Care center. Patty Spruill served as district recording secretary in 1978.

In 1978 and 1979, homemakers made a needlepoint tapestry which depicts life in Tyrrell County and presented it at the 250th celebration. It now hangs in the Tyrrell County Courthouse. The tapestry is valued at \$1,100 and took a total of 300 hours to make.

Extension homemakers have raised money for the heart fund as well as cancer society, and they entered a booth on lap reading in the 1979 Chowan County fair and won second place.

Women As Leaders

Many of the women are outstanding leaders as well as homemakers. One such person is Mrs. Birdie Phelps, who was selected the North Carolina Mother of the Year.

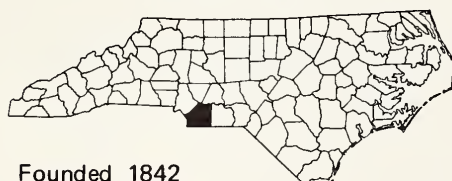
Mrs. Hilda Davenport received the A & P Leadership award in 1974. Other nominees from Tyrrell County have been Mrs. Rebecca Rhodes (1978); Mrs. Lula Cox Bridgeman (1972); and Mrs. Alma Dean Cooper (1975).

Each year nominations are placed in the county for an outstanding club "Woman of the Year." The recipient of this receives an engraved tray. Those receiving the tray in the past have included: 1963—Mrs. Dan Davis; 1964—Mrs. James Davenport; 1965—Mrs. Henry Davenport; 1966—Mrs. D. M. Bridgeman; 1967—Mrs. Franklin Furlough, Sr.; 1968—Mrs. Charlie Spruill; 1969—Mrs. D. A. Simmons; 1970—Mrs. Max Liverman; 1971—Mrs. Durwood Cooper; 1972—Mrs. Lee Barnes; 1973—Mrs. Eli Woodley; 1974—Mrs. Aubrey Walker; 1975—Mrs. Floyd Morris; 1976—Mrs. Rebecca Rhodes; 1977—Mrs. Thomas Spruill; 1978—Mrs. Doris Nichols.

Another fund which Tyrrell County Extension homemakers support is the Tyrrell County Scholarship Fund. This is given each

year to a deserving student to further his or her education. Extension homemakers contribute \$100 to this fund annually.

Union



The typical Union County member of the Extension homemakers club is young-old, black-white, working-nonworking and she likes sewing-cooking-decorating-painting-crafts-canning-baking the best.

In other words, there is no "typical" member of the 16 clubs among the women who are registered in Union County.

They are young and old. Some work outside the home and manage a career and family, others make the home their career. There are black and white women enrolled, since the basic interests and objectives of the organization are common to all women.

Many are interested in one specific area, such as cooking, but just as many have found new interests and hobbies because a friend was going to club activities.

These Union County Extension homemakers have been providing leadership in their communities since 1935.

Mrs. Swain Home Agent

On July 1, 1914, with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, farm Extension work was established and the first county agent appointed. From 1916-1935 several emergency home agents served the county. Although home Extension work began in 1920, it wasn't until 1935 that Mrs. Pratt Swain was appointed home agent and home demonstration clubs were organized. During the first year seven clubs were formed with a membership of 105.

The first Union County clubs were at Rock Rest and Wesley Chapel, both of which are still going strong.

Miss Connie Williams was a charter member of Rock Rest, along with her mother and three of her sisters, when it was organized in September 1935. There were 26 members in

that first group, most of them farm women. Meetings took place in members' homes.

"Mrs. McSwain did a lot of demonstration cooking, and on wood stoves, too, in those days. We did a lot of canning then, and dried apples and peaches," Miss Williams recently recalled. We learned to make hats.

There were no all-county workshops at that time, but club workshops covered much the same topics as today. The revival of interest in crafts such as weaving and silk flowers is the only difference today.

Mrs. Jessie Plyler, charter member of the Wesley Chapel club says, "there were 16 members. Three continue to take an active role in the club. In the days of my youth the men had a farmer's institute which was like a community fair. The women had cakes and canned goods on display. Prizes were given in each category. Mrs. Hutt from Raleigh was the principal judge. She taught us to make mayonnaise at home even before it was on the market. My, how slow it was, the oil was dropped one drop at a time on an egg yolk with vinegar added. I dropped and mamma beat. Those were the days."

Workshops in Homes

Mrs. McSwain held many workshops in homes. She had to train leaders then since none of us had experience in such matters. Steam pressure canners were just coming on the market. She taught us how to use them by actually "doing." One year, just before Christmas, we cooked fruit cakes in the steam pressure. Another time we gave a formal tea, just to learn how. We had a grand time. Mrs. McSwain managed to slip other things such as parliamentary procedure in between food and sewing.

One day she said, "don't say 'I now turn over the meeting to so and so.' You turn over the tables and chairs, not meetings." We all laughed. No one was offended. She had a way of teaching without making the women feel inferior.

During the early 1940's nine clubhouses were built by home demonstration clubs for

meeting places and community centers. Today, three of those clubhouses, Rock Rest, Midway and New Salem, are maintained by the Extension homemakers clubs and used as community centers.

Following Mrs. McSwain as home economics agents were Ruth Clapp, Mrs. Hilda Hudson, Mrs. Ada Dalla Pozza, Mrs. Cloise Williams, Ms. Rebecca Mooney, Ms. Ruth Brock and Mrs. Carroll Beckham. Today Mrs. Lois Hunley and Mrs. Jeanette Sherrod are working as home economics Extension agents.

Three members who have served as district president are Mrs. Joe Chaney, Mrs. Ira Helms and Mrs. Adam Rushing.

In 1963 the two Extension services in Union County were merged into one service. Prior to that time there was a black service and a white service.

Mrs. Bessie Rushing who served as southwestern district president says, "We have grown from farm women as homemakers to non-farm women as homemakers, however, we still practice the things we learned as farm women. We looked forward to those meetings; we knew the agent would give us ideas to better our family living conditions. We learned how to put in chair bottoms using corn shucks and how to use the pressure canner. We made mattresses and collected grease. A charter member of the club is Mrs. Mildred Hood. Agents who served the black extension organization prior to 1963 were Bertha Bethel

Forte, Miss Holmes, Betty Jessup Taylor and Miss Gavin."

During the past years the Extension home economics program has reached many new clientele through special-interest classes, area meetings and educational tours. Today 1,100 homemakers are registered in the special-interest program.

Extension homemakers have participated in classes in silk flowers, refinishing furniture, financial management, preparation of nutritious meals on a budget, weight control, new methods for making blazers, consumer education, citizenship seminars, use of microwave ovens, food processors and blenders, and estate planning.

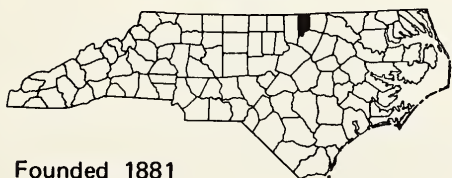
Tours to Carl Sandburg's home, Williamsburg, Charleston and Biltmore House opened new worlds for many members.

Union County established a fund to award a scholarship for a Union County boy or girl studying home economics. Monies for the fund were raised through an annual Christmas tour of homes sponsored by Extension homemakers.

The Extension homemakers prepared and sold a cookbook. The profits from the sale were used to purchase a demonstration table with mirror for the Union County Extension office.

Extension homemakers look forward to the next decade and feel home economics education is more needed today than in 1935.

Vance



Founded 1881

Home demonstration work was started in Vance County in 1914 by Mrs. Hattie F. Plummer through the cooperation of the county commissioners and the county board of education. The work began with the organization of canning clubs for girls. In every rural community there were groups called "Betterment Clubs" and the women became interested in growing vegetables and canning surplus for home use as well as for sale. Shortly, home

demonstration clubs were organized among the women. The first projects were preparation of clothing and foods.

When World War I began, people were urged to raise more garden produce in order to have a supply for marketing. After the war, housewives found themselves with a surplus of food but very little money. This was the start of a curb market. The first such market opened on February 3, 1923, in Coopers' warehouse. The market sales were from \$7,000 to \$17,000 each year.

In 1939 Mrs. Plummer saw as the county's greatest need a building in Henderson where people of all ages could meet. The building would house the curb market and could be used for demonstrations and other meetings. Mrs. Plummer's wish was fulfilled in May

1960, when the present Vance County office building was completed for housing Vance County agencies including the Vance County Agricultural Extension Service.

25th Anniversary Celebrated

A quarter century of farm Extension work in Vance County was commemorated at Zeb Vance High School near Kittrell Thursday afternoon and evening September 21, 1939, in what was conceded to be one of the greatest gatherings of farm people ever held in the county. Governor Clyde R. Hoey was the principal speaker and special honor was paid to Mrs. Hattie F. Plummer, the only demonstration agent the county had ever had, serving continuously since the work was established in 1914.

The Negro home demonstration work was started in Vance County on August 1, 1949 under the leadership of Mrs. Esther B. Roscoe Winston who retired in 1976. The first club was organized in the Nutbush II community in November, 1949, with Mrs. James Henderson as president and Mrs. Isiah Williams as secretary.

Black home demonstration women were honored in 1958 for the best refinishing furniture project in the state. Refinished pieces of furniture completed by Mesdames John H. Blackwell, Mary Gill, Harriet Lewis, and Arcelia Martin were taken to N. C. State University for display. Pictures of some of the pieces appear in the leaflet *New Furniture From Old* published by the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service. The national magazine *Extension Review* devoted two pages to the project.

In April 1958, 124 Vance County members attended the district federation day in Oxford. For that meeting the song "Each One Reach One" was written by Mrs. John A. Rogers, president of the Thursday Night club. An outstanding achievement in 1964 and 1965 was the state home demonstration club tri-color award for the county publicity book prepared by Mrs. George N. Tucker, Jr., Mrs. B. T. Wilkinson and Mrs. G. Roy Upchurch, county public relations chairmen.

Major fund-raising activities were conducted by both white and black club members prior to the 1966 merger. White members contributed to the Hattie F. Plummer Scholarship Fund and black members purchased a lot for a community center. Dur-

ing the past 10 years two major fund-raising activities have been a stew sale and the 1980 quilt project which netted \$1,480.

A special 1970 project was the Vance County housing fair held in the Big Dollar warehouse in Henderson May 22-24. Some 3,000 people visited the fair where over 30 exhibits were displayed.

Club for Rest Home

Recent outstanding projects conducted by clubs have been the Pine Haven Home Demonstration Club organized for rest home patients in 1977 and the stamp project participated in by citizens throughout our community. Each Extension homemakers club conducts an annual project. Receiving county first place honors in 1979 was the Zeb Vance Extension homemakers club for their blood-mobile activities. This club also received the statewide attendance award of \$100 at the 1970 Consumerama in Winston Salem.

A state officer from Vance County has been Mrs. I. J. Jackson, Jr., 1973 Coordinating Treasurer and Mrs. Evelyn Ayscue will be the 1981 Corresponding Secretary.

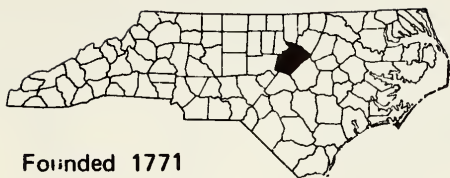
Recipients of state leadership awards were Mrs. Walter Haun and Mrs. I. J. Jackson, Jr.

In 1979 Mrs. Wilton Adcock received the statewide honorable mention award of \$25 in the Southern Christmas show ornament contest. In 1979 Vance County also received the district award for the highest percentage of new members.

Since 1949 county council presidents have included: Mrs. Van Adams, Mrs. Wilton Adcock, Mrs. Elsie Ayscue, Mrs. Evelyn Ayscue, Mrs. John Blackwell, Mrs. F. S. Bobbitt, Mrs. Emanuel Crosland, Mrs. C. L. Faison, Mrs. Leon Frazier, Mrs. J. B. Glover, Mrs. Virginia Green, Mrs. Walter Haun, Mrs. C. T. Hawkins, Mrs. I. J. Jackson, Jr., Mrs. M. J. Jackson, Mrs. Billy Moss, Mrs. B. M. Newman, Mrs. H. B. White, Sr., Mrs. Samuel Williams, Mrs. L. L. Hodge, Mrs. Jannie Haskins, Mrs. Blanch Cheatham, Mrs. E. C. Huff, and Mrs. A. B. Deans.

There are presently seven clubs in Vance County with 103 members. Under the leadership of Mrs. Billy Moss, council president, Mrs. Phyllis C. Stainback and Miss Johnsie C. Cunningham, home economics Extension agents, club members are stressing membership growth and program of work activities.

Wake



Founded 1771

Wake County women and girls were active in the early Tomato clubs. Women started their organized efforts as early as 1912 under such names as the "Betterment Associations" and developed into home demonstration clubs under the leadership of Dr. Jane S. McKimmon in 1915. The Wake County organization of home demonstration clubs was begun in 1920. The first Negro home demonstration agent was hired in Wake County in 1925 and the first Negro club was formed in 1926. Mrs. Ashley Powell, Route 6, Raleigh, served as president of the State Council of Home Demonstration Clubs of North Carolina 1954-56.

The first home demonstration programs were centered around just "plain needs". The work was designed to contribute directly to both family living and family income. Many of the early programs were centered around such subjects as dairying, how to make good butter, gardening, canning and poultry. Through the years programs have changed as society has changed.

The agents worked hard and long in helping rural people to just survive conditions of the time. They traveled by T-Model Fords over bumpy roads and paths to carry the

information to rural women.

35 Clubs, 525 Members

In 1966 the two associations merged to become the Wake County Extension Homemakers Association with 35 clubs and 525 members.

In 1970 Wake County Extension homemakers observed the 50th anniversary at their county achievement program and joined members from across the state for the celebration at Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh.

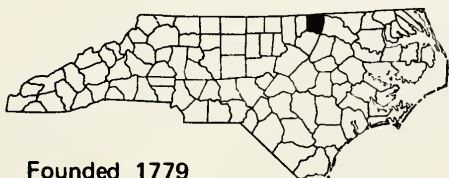
A & P Leadership awards have been received by two Wake County Club members, Mrs. Grace Lane in 1974 and Mrs. Josephine Evans in 1978.

Under restructuring in 1978 five area associations were formed with leaders presenting seven monthly lessons in local clubs; agents presenting three programs in each area association; and agents attending each local club only one month during the year.

Three senior club members contributed their recollections to the publication *I Remember When* published in 1978. They included Mrs. Elizabeth James, Mrs. Emma Layton and Mrs. Herbert Sauls.

Mall exhibits during National Extension Homemakers Week in 1979 and 1980 were successful recruitment tools to attract young homemakers and new club groups to the organization. The country organization will continue to emphasize recruitment of young and employed homemakers to the Extension homemakers organization.

Warren



Founded 1779

In June 1939 some women of Warren County met with the commissioners and requested the employment of a home demonstration agent. The commissioners were aware of the value of such a person to the county. Minutes of the June 15, 1939 commissioners meeting state, "It was un-

animously decided and ordered that \$900 be appropriated per year for the home demonstration agent."

Miss Marjorie Holmes, the first white agent, came to Warren County in August 1939 to begin the big task of organizing clubs and implementing a program of work. The women of the county were very interested in home improvement and self-development so the program received much enthusiasm. The first year in the county Miss Holmes organized 11 clubs with a membership of 185.

Home demonstration work among Negroes in Warren County also began in the late 1930's. Minutes of a county commissioners



Warren County Homemakers gather for a group portrait during a district extension meeting.

meeting on July 3, 1939 state, "A motion was duly seconded and carried, Jane Amos was reappointed as Colored Home Demonstration Agent at same salary as last year \$25 per month." According to the minutes this was the first mention of the employment of a Negro home demonstration agent in the county.

The home demonstration program in the county was considered two separate programs from the beginning until 1965 when the program was integrated. During the years, however, the organization structure, programs, and projects were similar.

1939 was the first year pressure canners were used in the county and to say the least, some of the women were quite leery at first. One homemaker reported she was so frightened by using the canner that she had her husband assist her. It was he who removed the canner of beans from the stove and immediately released the steam. The results soon taught husband and wife that this was not a recommended practice. The next canning experience met with better results.

First Electric Lines

1940 was a year to remember. On May 10 at 10:00 a.m., the first R.E.A. electric lines in Warren County were energized. The women knew nothing about electricity or how to prepare for its use. The home demonstration agents had demonstrations on types and sizes of wire and number of circuits for safe and efficient service. A few electrical appliances had been bought when World War II started and then families had to do without everything ex-

cept the bare necessities in support of the war effort. One homemaker who purchased the first washing machine in her community reported inviting neighbors to come and bring their clothes along to wash while they visited.

A project that caused much comment through the years was the mattress and comforter project in 1941. There were 4,062 mattresses made in Warren County. A fee of \$1 per mattress was charged to take care of operating expenses. Some days as many as 50 mattresses were completed. Over 2,200 comforters were made. A fee of 25¢ was charged for each of these. The home agents and hired supervisors worked with those making mattresses and comforters. Many families had better bedding as a result of this project.

Slides as a teaching tool were first used in the county in 1941 by specialists in landscaping and home furnishings.

Through the years Extension agents have taught homemakers to make the best use of what they had. This was especially true during the war years. Clothes were remodeled for a more attractive appearance and household furnishings were repaired and refinished to make them more comfortable and pleasing to the eye. Families planted victory gardens from which fresh vegetables were harvested for table and conservation. Club women participated in various drives put on at this time, for example collecting grease and scrap metal. They also rolled bandages for Red Cross and collected clothing for the war-torn countries of Europe.

In 1940, soon after home demonstration

clubs were organized, county councils were organized for the two separate groups, white and Negro. In turn these councils became affiliated with their respective district and state organizations. County council meetings were held at least quarterly and achievement programs were held in the fall with outstanding programs attracting large audiences. National Home Demonstration Club Week would be highlighted in various ways in May each year. The white homemakers looked forward to district meetings held each spring in Warren County or nearby counties while the Negro clubs held their district meeting usually in the fall.

Warren County white men and women looked forward to attending the annual farm and home week held on N. C. State University campus in Raleigh each summer. The Negroes attended farmers and homemakers conference usually held at A&T College in Greensboro. One year this annual conference was held in Warren County at Hawkins High School. Warren County Training School in Wise hosted the State Federation of Negro Clubs meeting one year.

Warren County has had the honor of having two homemakers serve as president of the state organization. In 1953 Mrs. R. L. Yancey of Norlina was president of the North Carolina Home Demonstration Clubs and in 1965 Mrs. James C. Harris of Warrenton headed the organization.

The two county councils as well as individual clubs have sponsored many

worthwhile community projects through the years. For example, homemakers furnished two rooms at a cost of \$500 each when the Warren General Hospital opened in 1951; furnished shrubbery for hospital grounds; volunteered to mend linen and make garments such as gowns and aprons for the hospital; installed a water cooler in the community center and made draperies for the center; contributed money for 4-H Club activities and awards; and contributed money to rural fire departments and the county library. Each year the Negro clubs gave \$25 to the best girl student in the two high schools at graduation. The girls were daughters of club members.

Educational Tours

Out-of-county and out-of-state educational tours created a lot of interest among club members. Included were trips to Durham, Chapel Hill, Winston-Salem, Pinehurst, Manteo and Wilmington, North Carolina; Luray and Williamsburg, Virginia; Washington, D. C.; New York, N. Y.; Miami, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Lancaster and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Interest among the women in the county for club work peaked in the late 1950's and early 1960's with a top participation among the whites of 20 clubs with approximately 400 members and top participation among the Negroes of 29 clubs with over 500 members. At present there are 12 Extension homemakers clubs in the county with 148 members. Personal contacts and special-interest



Mrs. C. E. Swenson (fourth from left) trains Warren County cultural arts leaders at a 1976 workshop.

programs are, however, reaching a large number of non-club members with Extension educational programs. Since club work started in the county in the 1930's there have been six white home economics Extension agents and seven assistant agents. There have been four black home economics Extension agents and six assistant agents. These agents worked with both adult and 4-H programs. Through the years there has also been a name change from home demonstration clubs to Extension homemakers clubs.

Extension homemakers club membership decline can be attributed to a number of factors among which are several small industrial plants moving into the county and providing a first-time opportunity for women to work outside the home. A practical nursing course taught in cooperation with home economics Extension and the local hospital personnel gave several women training for local employment.

Clubs Integrated in '65

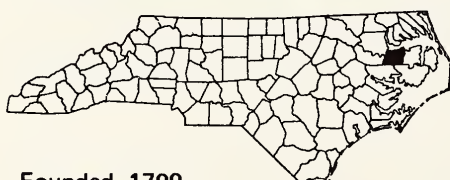
1965 was the year that the white and Negro homemakers clubs integrated, becoming one county council organization with both white

and black officers and leaders. Club programs have changed from each race working strictly with the Extension agent of like race to an integrated educational program with Extension agents working across the board in their specific areas of responsibility.

One outstanding project completed by the clubs in Warren County since integration was the making of a bicentennial quilt and collecting contributions for a chance to get the quilt. The money raised was used to establish a Warren County 4-H development fund. Through the quilt contributions of \$1,368.93 and other donations this fund totaling \$2,350 was set up in December 1976. The purpose of this fund is to aid and promote by financial assistance 4-H programs and activities designed for 4-H youth of Warren County.

The programs presented, workshops held, and hours contributed by the home economics Extension agents have helped the women develop as more gracious and knowledgeable individuals. Extension work in Warren County has made a big difference in the rural life and appearance of the homes of the county.

Washington



Founded 1799

The first home demonstration agent in Washington County was Miss Alice McQueen in June, 1917. She was here for three years. Washington County was among the first counties to have the privilege of having a home demonstration agent.

In 1917 in the year of our first World War and the flu epidemic, Miss McQueen did not have a car. However she managed to organize clubs throughout the county using a horse and buggy, over long dusty roads in the summer and cold, icy, muddy ones in the winter. Her office was in the county courthouse. Club meetings were held in the local community school houses and occasionally in summer under shade trees in the yards.

In distances of 7 and 8 miles, Miss McQueen left early and would spend the day in the neighborhood visiting and getting acquainted with the farm families and their way of living. She also administered to the sick; and during her three years farm women everywhere began to sing her praises. Our charter members still have fond memories of her. Although she was leaving, much had been accomplished. Seven clubs had been organized, and the farmer's wife had a new interest—"club meetings."

In 1920 Miss Plunket came. She was home agent for one and one-half years. Miss Wilson was the third agent in 1922, and during her two years three more clubs were added. During 1924 Miss Martin made a short stay of only six months. Miss Moorehead was sent in the last half of 1924. She stayed two years and added two more clubs.

Miss Sabrie Williams was our sixth agent. She stayed one and one-half years and organized one additional club. In 1927 she married J. K. Reid, and has made her residence in Plymouth.

Miss Covington in 1928

Miss Pratt Covington was number seven in 1928 and organized one more club, bringing the total up to 14. Meetings were held in homes. Boys and girls were taking part in 4-H club activities. During her three years and four months, home demonstration clubs were being introduced throughout the state so that they could be federated and divided into districts with adjoining counties. The 15th district had four counties: Pitt, Beaufort, Martin and Washington. The first district meeting was April 29, 1930 at the First Christian Church in Plymouth, Washington County. President was Mrs. Maude Harrison and the district agent was Miss Pauline Smith.

In 1932, Miss Eugenia Patterson was our new home agent. Homes were being remodeled and road conditions improved, making it much easier for her to reach more territories in the county. She stayed three years and seven months. Washington County had 17 clubs.

In 1932 the 15th district was composed of five counties: Pitt, Beaufort, Martin, Washington and Tyrrell.

In 1935 Miss Frances Misenheimer was taking over the many duties of helping farm women to become homemakers. In 1937 she married Mr. Wilbur Darden. In small communities where club membership was only a few, she joined several clubs together so that she could organize in localities that had not been reached. She had 17 white and one black club and seven 4-H clubs. She operated on a very busy schedule. Her office was located in the agricultural building in Plymouth. In 1942, 1943 and 1944 no district meetings were held due to travel difficulties. Mrs. Edison Davenport of Plymouth served as state president in 1945.

The first meeting after World War II was held in 1946. The 15th district now comprised seven counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Hyde, Martin, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington. Meetings were held in Washington County with Dr. Jane S. McKimmon as the speaker. Miss Ruth Current was state agent.

15th District Divided

In 1948 the 15th district was divided and made smaller. It was becoming difficult to accommodate the large attendance. Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington Coun-

ties were definitely the 24th district. The speaker for the district meeting was Dr. J. B. Messick, president of East Carolina College. District agent was Miss Pauline Smith.

In 1955 the 24th district comprised four counties: Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. District meeting was held in Plymouth High School on April 21, 1955. The president was Mrs. H. L. Harris and the speaker, Dr. L. S. Bennett. Miss Florence Cox was district agent and Miss Verna Stanton, assistant state agent.

In 1956 Washington County won the attendance gavel at Bath High School. Miss Current was state agent at the time. Washington County had 18 clubs and 300 members.

In December 1966 Frances Misenheimer Darden retired as home agent, with 31 years of service to county citizens. Mrs. Darden remembers her years:

"I learned to like everything (even mosquitoes) and after working with the people, I loved each one. I remember the enthusiasm shown by each homemaker and how she responded to the new methods used in food conservation, food preparation and house furnishings. As roads improved (I do remember getting stuck in the mud several times and club women pushing me out, getting mud splattered all over them), yard beautification took on added interest and became a countywide project. The homemaking skills that were a part of the lives of Extension homemakers were further developed each year, developing women into outstanding leaders in their county, district and state."

In 1966 the name of the organization was changed to Extension homemakers.

Gretchen Davis became Extension home agent in July, 1967 and stayed until September, 1968. Clubs were adjusting to changes of losing an agent and having the agent meet clubs only four times a year. Some clubs were combined and others just disbanded.

Bedding Program Started

Gretchen began the bedding program and helped many homemakers make mattresses and provide better health and homes for family members.

Vivian Davenport, Cherry-Pettigrew Club, served as county council president from 1968-1970.

Sandra Cobb became associate agent in September 1958. She married Cliff Brown in November 1968. She established new contacts in the county through her weekly column "Consumer Quiz" in the *Roanoke Beacon*. The bedding program continued, enabling families to make mattresses and to purchase sheets and blankets at lower costs. The Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program began and aides reached homemakers on a one-to-one basis and helped build kitchen cabinets.

In 1970 we celebrated our "Fifty-Plus" anniversary as 11 charter members were honored. Neva Darden and Ruth Garrett are charter members still living.

Washington County won a merit award for our fair booth in 1970—"Make a Molehill From a Mountain."

The Northeastern District Extension Homemakers Association met in Plymouth on April 21, 1971; 158 attended. The theme was "You and Your World." Helen Traxler, Alba Club, extended greetings as Washington County council president.

Furnishings for homes continued to be popular as workshops were held on restoring trunks, making draperies, slipcovers and upholstery of furniture.

Carrie L. Thompson joined the Extension staff as assistant agent in July, 1972.

The Extension homemakers county council and the Chapel Hill club raised \$500 each to furnish two of the new Washington County hospital rooms.

Council presidents in 1973 and 1974 were Mildred Hatchell, Chapel Hill Club, and Margaret Bateman, Cherry-Pettigrew Club,

respectively.

In 1976 Extension homemakers contributed to a beautification project for the agricultural building. Leyta Faye Phelps was County Council President (1975-76) and chaired this project.

Mrs. Annie S. Davenport of the Sunny Lane Club received the A & P Leadership award.

Extension homemakers were represented on the farm-city committee and the first craft fair was held at Plymouth Shopping Center.

Jean Griffin served as county council president in 1977-78.

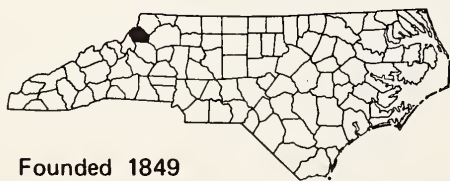
Watermark, Association of Artisans, Inc. was chartered in March 1978. Extension homemakers played a strong role in developing this project for the Albemarle area. Bonnie Barron, Cherry-Pettigrew Club, served as a member of the first board of directors from Washington County.

Extension homemakers have broadened their interests over the years, expanding from local to international projects. Jean Spruill, Tidewater Club, entertained her letter friend of eight years from England during 1978. Chriss Chesson of Sunny Lane Club hosted her friend of 15 years from New Zealand in 1979.

Other international projects have included saving canceled stamps for needy children, contributing to wells for Guatemala, hosting a cook-out, and presenting a North Carolina cross-stitch sampler to an exchange student from England.

Leona Bateman is currently serving as county council president. There are eleven clubs and 169 members.

Watauga



Home demonstration work began in Watauga County with the organizing of the Cove Creek home demonstration club in 1932. By 1936 there were ten clubs with a membership of 266. Nineteen clubs with a membership of 378 had been organized by 1952.

At the beginning of club work a county-wide kitchen improvement contest was held. Some of the members built cabinets, put running water in the kitchens, some added more windows for better light and several built wood boxes. Other programs of the early days were "color in the home," "bread and butter pickles," "jelly making," "dressing poultry," "better health," "insect control," and "screening our homes."

The club members gave a great deal of support to the 4-H program. They made a quilt to sell for a 4-H money raising project. In addition to 4-H projects several clubs helped with

school lunches for needy children and in some cases outfitted children with clothing so they could go to school. Community projects included serving meals during sickness and death and cleanup campaigns. The school lunchrooms were given canned foods for the lunch program.

County Fair Highlights

These early clubs supported the county fair, which was the highlight of the club year. At this time clubs would have exhibits that were judged and the homemaker would enter canned and baked goods for prizes and ribbons.

Clubs generally met in the homes but several met in community buildings and one had a room at the school which was furnished by homemakers and used for club meetings as well as other community events.

Club members raised \$500 during the late 1950's and early 1960's toward a building in Raleigh. Their dream was realized when the Jane S. McKimmon Education Center was built and dedicated to the first state home demonstration agent. North Carolina homemakers donated \$100,000 towards this center. This fund came from what was begun as a building fund from their membership.

Mrs. Asa Reese, former member of the Beaver Dam home demonstration club, served as district V chairman in 1965. Club members from Watauga County raised money to sponsor her trip to the national Extension homemakers meeting in Hawaii.

The name was changed from home demonstration clubs to Extension homemakers clubs in 1965. The clubs are a part of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service and are assisted by the Home Economics Extension agents.

Eight Organized Clubs

Matney, Boone, Brushy Fork, Cove Creek, Crossroads, Good Neighbors, Green Valley and Mountain Vale are the eight organized Extension homemakers clubs with a membership of 102. The number of clubs and membership has declined since 1954 when factories came to Watauga County and many homemakers began working outside the home.

Extension homemakers sponsor trips to events such as the district council meetings, Christmas show, 50th anniversary celebration of the state organization in Raleigh, Biltmore

House in Asheville, the Dixie Classic fair, and craftsmans fair. Club members also exhibit at the state fair in Raleigh. Fashion shows have created interest by homemakers who make many of their clothes and those of family members.

The annual achievement program always creates interest. At this time clubs and members are recognized for their leadership and accomplishments during the year. Mrs. Odes Wilson, Miss Ann Sherwood and Mrs. Grace Bingham have been recipients of the A & P Leadership state award.

The county Christmas fair is an event in which clubs have participated since it originated in 1972. Clubs exhibit Christmas items and crafts which members have made. The council and clubs have an exhibit at the spring festival. Clubs furnish meals and cookies for the bloodmobile visits.

Extension homemakers from Watauga County attended the northwestern district Extension homemakers Day in Mount Airy in 1975. The theme for the event was "bicentennial food festival." The speaker for the occasion was Ms. Sandra Brookover, consumer meat specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Early Watauga Kitchens

Watauga County Extension homemakers had a display entitled "Early Watauga Kitchens." This display included a fireplace with antique accessories as found in many early Watauga kitchens. Mrs. Odes Wilson, Miss Ann Sherwood, Mrs. Dave Mast, Mrs. Sue Murray and Mrs. Grace Bingham served on the display committee. The display received high honors.

Miss Ann Sherwood, Watauga Extension homemakers council president was in the parade of presidents. Miss Ann Sherwood was dressed in the costume of 1932, the year the Cove Creek Extension homemakers club, the oldest club, was organized.

The Extension homemakers expanded the country kitchen exhibit and used it at the Dixie Classic fair for one day. Those manning the exhibit were quite surprised to hear many of those viewing the exhibit say they had discarded "junk" like that on display. Some of the items used were 100 years old and the homemakers remember aunts and mothers

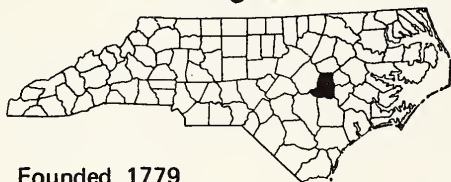
using them. The same fireplace was used at the spring festival in 1975 and 1976 and at the Christmas fair.

The Extension homemakers club officers make up the county council which is the governing body of the clubs. The council officers are: president—Mrs. Don Fairchild; first vice-president—Mrs. James Dancy; second vice-

president—Mrs. Mike Cameron; corresponding secretary—Mrs. Ronnie Miller; recording secretary—Mrs. Don Perry; and treasurer—Mrs. Odes Wilson.

Former home economics agents still residing in Watauga County are Mrs. R. H. Harmon, Mrs. Len Hagaman, Mrs. Robert Davis, Mrs. Max Fox and Mrs. Marvin Storie.

Wayne



Founded 1779

The history of Wayne County Extension homemakers clubs is colorful and exciting. It unfolds from yellowed papers filed carefully away for safe keeping and from the lips of "old timers" whose eyes light up in a special way as they share their remembrances of the "good old days." Several significant facts emerge, making members all the more proud of their heritage.

It all began more than 60 years ago when in 1915 Estelle T. Smith came as the first home agent. Jane S. McKimmon wrote to her as follows: "I am anxious to see you take up the work. The amounts appropriated (\$150 from the county and \$100 from the state will give you \$50 a month for five months."

Mrs. Smith worked through the schools to organize girls' clubs. Girls were taught to grow, then can, tomatoes. Later, neighborhood groups gathered in homes, schools, or backyards to can their excess produce. Thus, the first clubs were called "Canning" or "Tomato" clubs. In one season one girl canned 1,000 quarts of tomatoes. Mrs. Sally Smith recalls that they often referred to Estelle T. Smith as Estelle "Tomato" Smith. But she was soon to branch out and during the latter part of her first year she organized pig, poultry and corn clubs. That same year a Wayne County boy, Allison Overman, won the state corn club prize.

First Wayne Fair in 1916

In 1916 Mrs. Smith assisted in establishing the first Wayne County fair. In 1917, her

second year, the county increased its appropriation for home demonstration works. This made the home agent's salary \$1,800. Mrs. Smith was the first home agent to receive the same salary as a farm agent, evidence of the importance of the work to the county.

There is always a broader field for superior workers, so in May 1918 Mrs. Smith left Wayne to become district agent of 34 counties. The effects of the war were being keenly felt. She wrote the following letter:

"The call comes to us as women, in this national crisis. America expects every woman to do her duty. This is a woman's war and the men are fighting to protect the women of the American nation from suffering like the women of France and Belgium have suffered. We cannot carry a gun. We have little money to give to help clothe our boys and build our vessels, but we do have time to help raise food and then save it. By even raising enough for our families' use we thus turn much loose for our boys in France. I thus urge you to do your part in this World War even though it may be small."

In June 1918 Mrs. Tine Sloan assumed the work in Wayne. She continued successfully Mrs. Smith's plans for canning all surplus products. New clubs were organized and much emphasis was placed on Red Cross work, knitting warm sweaters and socks, and packing emergency kits for the soldiers. Also, much assistance was given to the influenza epidemic of 1918.

The county council was organized in 1919. Service projects began with one club (Nahunta) giving improved lunch boxes with thermos bottles to school children at lunch.

In 1920 cotton prices dropped from 40¢ to 16¢ a pound but the price of the average lady's hat was \$19.50. Ladies were delighted that the new agent, Elizabeth Bogle, had expertise in

hat making which she taught all over the county. They also learned textiles, garment making, fitting and cutting. The program was expanding.

First Negro Agent

In May 1922 a special thing happened. Emma McDougal came to Wayne as its first Negro agent. She was the third Negro agent to be hired in the entire state. There being few or no Negro schools, she sought her audience through the churches. She was met with much cooperation and soon had several women's and girls' clubs organized. In addition to growing and canning produce she placed much emphasis on making "something from nothing." Included were tablecloths and clothing from feed bags, medicine cabinets from wooden boxes, and ornamental shelves from clock cases. She eventually covered housekeeping, child care and social graces.

Biscuit contests were introduced and were immediately successful. Mrs. A. K. Holmes was declared county winner in 1921. She rode the train to Raleigh to compete in the state contest. When the time came to bake the biscuits not a single agent there knew how to operate "that new-fangled electric stove." The man from the stove company had to be sent for. Mrs. Holmes won first place and with her winnings bought a watch which she still has.

The curb market opened on March 31, 1923 with seven communities selling. It was patronized by 200 housewives and \$100 was taken in. This increased to \$185 the second week.

With so firm a foundation, club work grew and expanded rapidly. Agents and members were busy. Mrs. M. L. Parker tells of accompanying the agent "to help her push her T-Model out of the sand."

The pressure canner was introduced; canning was now being done in glass. Mamie Wolfe recalls her first jar of fancy-packed beans—a real work of art. Being accustomed to placing *cans* in a cold water bath to cool, she did the same for her *jar*—a lesson never forgotten!

In the late 1920's better kitchens were stressed through contests with cash prizes awarded to the winners. The contest was judged by Mrs. Smith, district agent, and first place was \$25—a lot of money in those days. This campaign inspired yard improvement

contests. Both programs reached beyond members as neighbors became interested and active in making similar improvements.

In 1932 county financial support of club work in Wayne was discontinued for four years. Some clubs however, managed to carry on. In 1936 Miss Gertrude Bundy began work as home agent. She reorganized six old clubs and five new ones. Home Demonstration work was on the move again!

Women Convert Men's Suits

Miss Elizabeth Edgerton recalls learning to make cotton mattresses during these lean years. It was also during this period that members learned to renovate men's worn suits into suits for themselves. Mrs. Clyde Smith stated that her husband told a friend he was afraid to take his pants off at night for fear his wife would have them made into a skirt for herself by morning. Members also learned to fashion men's felt hats into new styles for themselves.

The 1940's saw honor come to Wayne County, first by Mrs. Ed Peele who was named master homemaker, the only Wayne County member to be so honored.

In 1946 Mrs. A. W. Pierce served as state president of the N. C. Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. She also served as chairman of the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund for 5 years. "Things had to be right in those days," says Mrs. Pierce. "We followed parliamentary procedure to the letter of the law . . . or else!"

During the 1950's some clubs built community buildings and members helped to get a new agriculture center for the county with facilities adequate for large group meetings. An annual flower show was begun and by now the program had expanded to touch all homemaking areas and others, too.

Two Wayne County members, Mrs. Clarence Bunn and Mrs. Aldon Gurley, received A & P Leadership recognition in the 1960's.

In 1967, the Negro and white organizations merged and Mrs. Winston Best served as the first president of the Wayne County Extension homemakers organization.

The 1970's were busy years with members embracing old projects but reaching out to new ones.

The flower show continues as well as the

curb market which in 1978 celebrated its 55th anniversary. Four homemakers were active in the curb market for years: Mrs. E. H. Thompson (45 years); Mrs. Relmon Smith (32 years); Mrs. A. J. Newsome (16 years); and Mrs. Addie Evans (21 years).

An annual Christmas bazaar was begun (1970) to provide a showcase of members' handiwork and to earn money.

An international luncheon (1972) permits members to learn about people from other countries through foods, costumes, talks and exhibits.

At the county fair, Extension homemakers sponsor a "Salute to Senior Citizens"—in a "Queen of Grandmothers" contest (1971). The queen is selected from one candidate from each club and reigns for one year.

Old Homestead Set Up

In 1976 members held a special celebration of the bicentennial entitled "Early American Homemaking." A completely furnished "old homestead" was set up including wash house and farm area with live demonstrations on all phases of early homemaking. Entertainment and yesteryear fashions were also included. Every club participated and almost 5,000 people attended the two-day event.

Members contributed in a similar way to

the 200th birthday of the county in 1979.

Mrs. J. A. Jernigan (1974), and Mrs. John Hall (1979), served as district presidents. Mrs. J. A. Jernigan (1975), Mrs. Joseph Barnes (1977), and Mrs. Winston Best (1978) received A & P Leadership awards.

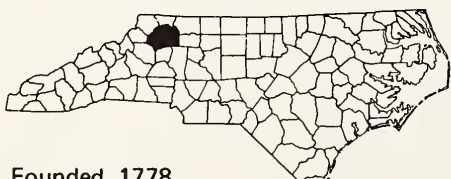
Mrs. Clarence Bunn (1972-Education), and Mrs. Ezekiel Ward (1979—Health), served as state program of work chairman. The state health report submitted by Mrs. Ward placed third in the nation. Mrs. Clarence Bunn and Mrs. Winston Best have been ACWW delegates.

Our first young homemakers club, Salem, was organized in September, 1979—with 19 members and JoAnne Barbee as president. They were sponsored by the Belfast club.

The year 1980 finds us celebrating our 60th anniversary in a meaningful way. Three new clubs (in addition to Salem) have been organized: Eastern Wayne, Mrs. Bruce Weisiger, president; the Lady Slippers (Elroy), Mrs. Bob Ivey, president; and the Fine Points Club (Providence Church community), Mrs. Theresa Howard, president.

One club, Dudley, has been reorganized with credit going primarily to Mrs. Jessie Simons. President is Mrs. Murray Greenfield. This brings our total of clubs to 25.

Wilkes



Founded 1778

Extension work began in Wilkes County in 1909 when Congress approved a bill for rural education.

In 1911 with the passage of the Bradford-Knapp Act, Wilkes County was selected as one of the first 14 counties in North Carolina in which the experiment of training farm men and women was to be carried out.

Mrs. Blanche Miller was selected as the first woman to carry on this work. She was known as a "collaborator," since the entire project was an experiment. For a salary of \$75 per month, Mrs. Miller worked four months of the

year. From 1912-1917, Mrs. Miller worked 6 months of the year. In the meantime the Smith-Lever Act was passed, making her a home demonstration agent, and in 1918 the first full year of home demonstration work was carried on by Mrs. Miller.

In 1911, Farm and Home institutes were conducted in the county, with Dr. Jane S. McKimmon and Mrs. Ann Hutt giving instructions to the women and girls. These institutes were highlights in the life of farm people in that day, and stand out in the memory of older farm men and women.

During these seven years, Mrs. Miller traveled over the county in a buggy teaching better methods of homemaking.

5 Years Without Agent

Following Mrs. Miller's resignation in late 1918, there was a period of five years in which there wasn't an agent to help the rural people,



Ladies from the Mulberry Extension Homemakers Club, Wilkes County, displayed quilting skills at the 1976 Dixie Classic Fair.

but the work continued with the rural women helping each other.

In 1923 Miss Jennie L. Whitaker came to the county for a period of six months. Biscuit making, biscuit contests and hat making stand out in the account of her work as given by women in the county.

After a lapse of seven years in 1930, Miss Hazel Brown was assigned as part-time home agent in Wilkes and Surry Counties. The women met in groups in Wilkesboro because of the limited time Miss Brown had to spend in the county. Basket making was one of the demonstrations that stands out as part of her work.

As an emergency relief agent, Miss Edna Reinhardt came into the county in 1932-33. The records show that she was in the county only three or four months in the spring and summer. She taught the three-hour method of canning green beans and other produce.

The real progress of Extension work and the organization of Home demonstration club work was started in 1938 when Miss Harriet McGoogan came to Wilkes County as a full-time home agent. During her first year Miss McGoogan organized eight home demonstration clubs. The first three clubs organized were Ronda, Mountain View and Ferguson. The other five clubs organized in 1938 were

Boomer, Maple Springs, Moravian Falls, Gilreath and Parsonsville. Today (1980), four of these clubs are still active.

On July 1, 1938, the first county council of home demonstration clubs was organized and the officers elected for a 2-year term. The president was Mrs. C. F. Bretholl of the Moravian Falls club.

During those first months of work in Wilkes County, an effort was made to keep the work before the public and to contact organizations and institutions such as schools, civic organizations, womens' clubs and newspapers.

In 1939 home demonstration club work still moved forward with three new clubs being organized. They were Purlear, Roaring Gap and Pores Knob. In June 1939, the first home demonstration curb market was opened in North Wilkesboro. During the six months in which the market operated, 25 different women made sales totalling \$1,282.46.

Awards of Merit

On December 12, 1939 the first achievement day for home demonstration club women was held in the Wilkesboro club house. Seventy-six people attended, representing 10 of 11 clubs. This meeting showed real progress in organized home demonstration club work in Wilkes County. The following awards of merit

were given: 1. Highest average attendance, Moravian Falls Club. 2. Clubs showing greatest improvement in organization and attendance: Gilreath, Boomer, Mt. View and Purlear. 3. Most outstanding individual in kitchen improvement: Mrs. B. F. Proffit and Mrs. W. H. Tevepaugh. 4. Most outstanding individual in organization of the work: Mrs. C. F. Bretholl. 5. Outstanding individuals in food conservation: Mrs. Sam Pennell and Mrs. G. B. Carlton. 6. Outstanding individual in market attendance: Mrs. J. M. Costner. 7. Club showing greatest mileage to county-wide achievement day meeting: Ronda Club.

In 1940 Miss McGoogan left Wilkes County and Miss Elizabeth Williams came to the county as home demonstration agent. Miss Williams is remembered for her work in the mattress and comforter program.

In September 1940, Mulberry and Mt. Pisgah clubs were organized. In 1941 Traphill and Hunting Creek Clubs were organized.

In February 1942, Miss Annie Laurie Herring (Mrs. Annie H. Greene) came to the county as home agent. During these war years, much emphasis was placed on the victory garden and food conservation program, as well as on programs relating to the war effort such as stamps and bonds, Red Cross drives, and salvage committees.

Champion and Pleasant Ridge Home Demonstration clubs were organized during 1942, making a total of 14 clubs with an enrollment of 235 women. In 1943 a membership drive was launched and 96 members were added to the enrollment. Two new clubs were organized: Millers Creek and Fairplains. One club, the Abshers club, was organized in early 1944. In May Miss Helen Price (Mrs. Helen P. White) became the first assistant home demonstration agent for the county.

In 1945 one more new club was organized, the Cricket club.

Because of low attendance the Mulberry club met with the Fairplains club for a couple of years. In 1946 Mulberry club was reorganized and Lewis Fork was organized. In 1947 Clingman club was organized. During this time, the Wilkes County council and home demonstration clubs published a cook book containing recipes of the club women as a fund-raising project.

The Buggaboo club was organized in 1948. Miss Ruth Thompson came to Wilkes County

as assistant home demonstration agent in 1949. In 1950 Maple Hill club was organized. By the end of 1952 the county had a total of 19 clubs and 625 members when the Little Mountain club was organized. In 1953 Eugenia Luttrell (Mrs. Sam Ogilvie) came to work as assistant home agent.

The Thurmond Club and Little Rock Club were organized in 1954. New clubs during 1955 were Rock Creek and Liberty Grove. Mrs. Ogilvie resigned as agent and Miss Kathleen Bodenheimer succeeded her in 1955. In the fall of 1957 Miss Sue Norman (Mrs. Ralph Beaver) was appointed assistant home agent. The Pleasant Hill club was organized in 1958 and the Cranberry club in 1959.

In the fall of 1959 our home agent, Mrs. Annie L. Greene, resigned after 17 years with Wilkes County Extension. Miss Sue Norman was appointed to succeed her. Miss Dorothy Barrier was appointed assistant home agent.

During 1959, 11 women sold products at the Trading Post. This brought income into the county and helped to supplement the family income.

Beacon Light club was organized in 1963. 1964 was a year of change. All home demonstration clubs became Extension homemakers clubs. In April 1965 the Edgewood club was organized.

Aid Needy Students

In the late 1960's the Wilkes County Extension homemakers gave a \$300 Scholarship fund to Wilkes Community College. This scholarship fund is still given annually to Wilkes Community College to help a needy student.

An educational fund-raising project, a tour of homes, was started by the Wilkes County Extension homemakers clubs in August 1969. Four homes were on the tour with enough variety to please everyone. Extension homemakers served as hostesses in each home to explain the features of various rooms.

In August 1970, Mrs. Claudette C. Webster became our new county home Economics agent and the following year Mrs. William I. Myers became our assistant home agent.

Wilkes Extension homemakers through the years have done many volunteer services. They always staff the bloodmobile and provide homemade refreshments each month. They also staff the cancer clinic eight months

of the year and have done volunteer work for the crippled children's clinic. They have been strong supporters of Heart Fund drives, March of Dimes campaign and the United Fund.

Mrs. Robert Reese became our new assistant agent in 1975. This was also the year the Sunshine club was organized. Miss Kathleen A. Wiebel joined the staff as assistant agent in January of 1977 and Miss Donna Barr (Mrs. Terry Edsel) became Extension agent in June 1977.

In September of 1978, the Extension homemakers held "Living in the Good Old Days," in celebration of Wilkes County's 200th birthday. Different clubs demonstrated old-time crafts as knotting bedspreads, making butter, etc. Mrs. Freda B. Arney served as assistant home agent from October 1978 to June of 1979.

'Christmas Around the World'

The Apple Blossom club was organized in 1978.

"Christmas Around the World," was introduced to Wilkes County in December, 1978 by various Extension homemakers clubs. Homemakers decorated trees in traditions of many countries. Also on display were homemade Christmas wreaths which were

typical of those found throughout the world.

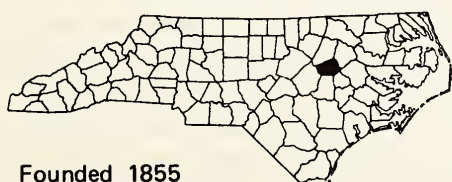
In 1979, the theme for the achievement day in October was, "You've Come a Long Way, Baby!" In keeping with the theme, members of several clubs presented a fashion show of styles from the 1900's to the present day. Also in 1979, Miss Gail Warren joined the staff as assistant agent.

At the North Carolina State Extension homemakers meeting in Pinehurst, Wilkes County Extension homemakers received an award for their outstanding work in the blood pressure clinic project. They sponsored several blood pressure clinics and checked over 600 people for high blood pressure.

In 1980 we have 17 Extension homemakers clubs in Wilkes County, with an enrollment of 300.

Between 1938 and 1980, the following served as council presidents: Mrs. C. F. Bretholl, Mrs. F. T. Moore, Mrs. T. W. Ferguson, Mrs. J. P. Pardue, Mrs. A. T. Whittington, Mrs. John R. Church, Mrs. Irving Key, Mrs. Grady Dimmette, Mrs. J. M. Bentley, Mrs. Clinton Eller, Mrs. C. M. Brown, Jr., Mrs. O. B. Smith, Mrs. Edward Pendry, Mrs. Clyde Shumaker, Mrs. Roy Russell, Mrs. Billy Joe Greer, Mrs. Douglas Wood, Mrs. Pete Stone, Mrs. Ralph Miller, and Mrs. Rex Whittington.

Wilson



Wilson County had an Extension home agent working with its families as early as 1917. She was Miss Willie White, a graduate of Woman's College, Greensboro. After several years Miss White became the wife of a Presbyterian minister and moved with him to Statesville.

It was not until July 1, 1934 that the next agent was hired. Realizing the value of such a service to the people of Wilson County, the commissioners appropriated funds and Lois Rainwater was hired. During that first year, 12 home demonstration clubs were organized

with a membership of 226 women. A county council was formed to serve as the executive board of the County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Five local members represented Wilson County at the state federation meeting at State College. Three women attended the district meeting in Clayton. Seventy five women entered the state better fall and winter garden contest. Fifteen women entered a two-county home grounds improvement contest. Clubs sponsored the hot lunch program in two schools. They supplied money and equipment as well as food and staples.

Food Conservation

During Miss Rainwater's first year, as a result of food conservation demonstrations, club women reported canning 17,767 quarts of food for home use. Valued at 15¢ per quart, this was a total of \$2,665.05. In addition, 2,658

pounds of fruits and vegetables were dried and 134,140 pounds of meat were cured. Also, canning leaders assisted with 90 white and 20 black emergency relief families.

Fifty-three rural families sold products on the home demonstration curb market—a place where town and country friends met weekly. The W. H. Blalock family (Dr. Carlton Blalock's) sold twice weekly on the curb market. Mrs. Blalock said that the earnings were used to educate the three children as well as to help provide a better way of life for the family.

First Black Agent

The first black home agent for Wilson County was employed in 1939. By December 1940, Mrs. Jane Boyd reported a total of 12 black clubs had been organized. Mrs. Boyd worked with the women through April 1946. She was successful in helping homemakers increase the productivity of gardens, improve food conservation techniques, and begin a curb market for selling excess produce.

The clubs grew, and even in 1963 when they were without an agent, Wilson County won the gavel at the east central district meeting for having the largest delegation in attendance.

Successful merger of white and black clubs took place during 1965.

Mrs. Pearl Blalock, mother of the director of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, Dr. Carlton Blalock, became involved in the home demonstration program right from the start. She admits that it has had a profound influence on her life and the lives of her family members.

In 1940, the Blalock family was recognized for having mastered the art of farming and homemaking. They were selected by the *Progressive Farmer* and the State College Extension Service as "Master Farm Family"—

one of the greatest honors that could come to a rural family. This outstanding family brought high and well deserved honors to themselves and to Wilson County.

Strong Leadership

Much of the success of the home economics program in Wilson County is due to the strong leadership of many outstanding club women. A & P Leadership Award winners from Wilson include: Mrs. T. L. Anthony, Mrs. Silas Lucas, Mrs. Marvin Daniel, Mrs. Charles Boykins, Mrs. Ruth Stott, Mrs. Frank Owens, Mrs. R. D. Richards, Mrs. C. J. Moore, Mrs. Grover Jones and Mrs. Virginia Hayes.

Mrs. Marvin Daniel served as 2nd vice president of the state association in 1976; 1st vice president in 1977; and president in 1978.

Homemakers clubs assisted with the building of 11 community buildings in the county.

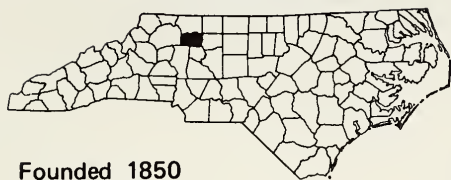
In 1950, the Lois Rainwater Loan Fund was established to assist deserving students with financial aid. More than 30 students have used the fund.

Wilson County has had many delegates to attend United Nations study tours and Associated Country Women of The World meetings.

Extension homemakers are responsible for the wonderful solid waste system which Wilson County enjoys. They maintained a continuous vigilance until action was taken by the county commissioners to provide a sanitary way to dispose of solid waste.

Wilson County Extension homemakers have always been interested in beautification—from the very first year when they entered two-county competition, until 1978 when they won national recognition in "Keep America Beautiful." Records of work done during the past year have been mailed to KAB just recently.

Yadkin



Founded 1850

The pioneering in home demonstration work in Yadkin County was done in 1935 by Miss Florence Mackie, home economics agent in Davie County.

Her work in Yadkin was by way of being a good neighbor and was on a volunteer basis. Seven clubs were organized; however, Miss Mackie was unable to do more than give these clubs a start. Without a leader they lacked clear objectives and none of the clubs survived.

In March 1939, Miss Irene Brown was appointed home agent. She started organizing clubs and carrying out other duties as home agent. Many women were ready to take advantage of her services.

The first club organized was the Windsor's Cross Roads club. Its first president was Mrs. Vera Wood and "Making Yeast Bread" was the first demonstration.

In 1941, a county council of home demonstration clubs was organized. Mrs. Nelson Dobbins was elected president and Mrs. D. C. Spillman, secretary.

Help With Research Lab

In 1945 the clubs, acting through the council, were approaching new and important tasks—cats were collected for Elon College's research laboratory at \$1 per head. Some \$200 was realized from this project. Other events of interest and importance have been undertaken each year, but this tops the list in projects for the county.

In 1939 the East Bend Home Demonstration club was organized with the help of Miss Irene Brown. The first meeting was at the home of Mrs. Agnes Doub, with only six women attending. East Bend club is now among the top clubs. The women have had several projects, but their pet one is the East Bend medical clinic. Realizing the importance of a medical facility for a small community, the women have been willing and eager to help in every way. In 1974 a red letter day was proclaimed. The county was given a health award from the

National Extension Homemakers Association for work done in health. The award was presented when James Holshouser was governor. Yadkin was the first county in the state to receive this award.

The Forbush, Enon, and Baltimore ladies met on July 5, 1939 and organized a club which was called the F.E.B. club, using the first letters of the three communities. There were 20 charter members. The Baltimore ladies formed a new club in 1945 because of the large area involved.

The Yadkinville club was organized in 1939. Mrs. Wm. W. Mackie, Sr., Miss Blanche Mackie, Mrs. J. L. Mackie, Mrs. C. N. Dobbins, and Mrs. Lucy Brown met in the Old Academy building with Miss Irene Brown and organized Yadkinville's first club. Mrs. C. N. Dobbins was elected president.

Huntsville Organized in 1939

In June 1939, the Huntsville Extension Homemakers club was organized with 12 members. Mrs. T. H. Poindexter was the first president. She was a most outstanding member and had a perfect attendance for 36 years. Mrs. Poindexter says, Miss Brown, the agent, "brought dignity and honor to the farm women, a broader aspect of life, in government, the business world, the churches, homes, and communities." This club abandoned in 1978.

In the summer of 1940, Miss Irene Brown, Yadkin County home agent, met with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Walker to discuss home demonstration work. The next week, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Thad Reece, and Miss Brown met with L. F. Brumfield, county agent, to make plans for an organization in Boonville. The Boonville Home Demonstration club was organized that week with Mrs. C. W. Riden as first president. There were 21 charter members. During the war years the club sponsored and manned the ground observer post for civil defense. Each year during the Farm and Home Week, a group went to Raleigh. Mrs. Arlie Steelman, Mrs. Frank Steelman, and Mrs. W. E. Brooks had 10 years perfect attendance when this program was discontinued.

Three members have been nominated as club "Mothers of the Year" and attended the State Mothers Association get-together in Raleigh. In 1979, the Boonville homemakers won the grand champion award in the Dixie



Yadkin County homemakers and their children participate in a district fashion show.

Classic fair for their booth. Mrs. Addie Hechard, president of the club was the "Veep Award Winner" for the state.

The Fall Creek club was first organized in 1941 with Mrs. J. D. Robinson as president. This club was known as the Smithtown club until 1950, when members decided to change the name to Fall Creek to take in a wider area and more homemakers.

On January 26, 1945 the women of the Baltimore community announced they were organizing a new club to be known as the Baltimore club. The women had been meeting with the Forbush-Enon club. Mrs. A. A. Doub was elected president. Members have been few in number but all have taken a big part in the work.

Jonesville Extension homemakers met in July 1953 with Mrs. Oscar Reece and a club was organized. Mrs. Woody Mabry was elected president and served for 12 years. There were 13 charter members. We have 28 active members now. In 1974, one of our members, Mrs. Lexa Groce, won the first NEHC county certificate of merit award for her writeup on a health project. In 1976, Mrs. Groce, as state chairman for public information, won second place in the NEHC subscription contest for national notes and second place in the public information contest.

West Yadkin Club

The Hamptonville Extension Homemakers club is fairly young in name only. Two of its members, Mrs. Fred Money and Mrs. Charles W. Gough, once belonged to the West Yadkin Club which was organized in the early 1940's. West Yadkin covered such a large territory that the ladies decided to form a separate club. This was done in 1956. The Hamptonville club has been very active, taking part in all county projects. One outstanding local project was helping to build and maintain the Hamptonville community building.

Two of the members, Mrs. Worth Hinshaw and Mrs. Charles W. Gough, after serving as club presidents, also served as county council president and as district president. These two ladies have also directed a music program for many years for the county—Mrs. Gough served as state federation treasurer for 6 years.

Mrs. Hinshaw and Mrs. Gough have had perfect attendance at club meetings for 30 years. Mrs. Gough has had perfect attendance at spring festivals in Elkin, for 33 years.

The West Yadkin Home Demonstration club was organized October 1957 at the home of Mrs. J. W. Garner. Miss Rachel Togue, assistant agent, assisted in organizing the new club. Nine women were present and Mrs.

Walter Welborn was elected president. Nine members received pins for taking Red Cross home nursing courses. They have been active with the Lions clubs and the Community Building in money making projects.

Fire Department Aided

The Lone Hickory Extension homemakers club was organized in the early 1960's. The club began with seven members and has more than doubled in size. One of the main programs has been assisting with benefit suppers that help finance the fire department and the community recreation programs. Members have made special donations for the tennis courts, a community well, and the Yadkin County rescue squad.

The South Oak Ridge Extension Homemakers club was organized October 7, 1965. One of the outstanding projects of this club was the making of flags for the Yadkin County bicentennial celebration. The flags were placed in the recreated Little Log Schoolhouse situated on the campus of Star-mount High School.

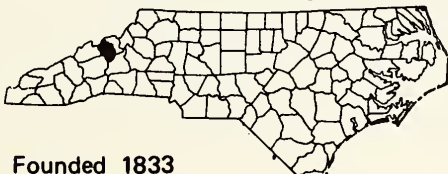
In 1974, Mrs. Olivia Simpson met with a group of ladies and the Good Morning club was organized with 10 charter members. This is a club of young mothers which meets in the morning. This is the second club in Yadkinville.

Yadkin County has been fortunate in having good agents. Miss Brown came to Yadkin County in 1939. She was a native of Nash County but had worked in Johnston County three years prior to coming to Yadkin County. All the clubs except the Good Morning club were organized under her guidance. She retired in 1970.

In 1970 Mrs. Christine Greene arrived in Yadkin County to begin her work as our agent. She had worked in Surry County prior to coming here. Her stay was much too short because her husband was transferred and she had to leave.

In 1973 Mrs. Olivia Simpson became our third agent. She organized the Good Morning Club and is active with the young folks. Yadkin County has 13 clubs and a total membership of 210.

Yancey



Founded 1833

The longest journey begins with the first step. The first feeble steps of Extension home demonstration work in Yancey County were taken in the early 1940's, when random demonstrations of cooking and canning with pressure cookers were given by visiting agents from other counties. The housewives were so eager to improve their lot in life that a home demonstration agent was soon employed. Probably the first club in Yancey County was organized at South Toe in 1941 by Miss Maria Alley, home demonstration agent. It was known as the Estatoa club.

Miss Alley was soon followed by Miss Dorothy Turner who left later to join the armed services. Then, Mrs. Elizabeth Russell (Gibbs) arrived in 1943, and her work was not easy. It was wartime, and home demonstra-

tion was not the foremost thing on the minds of the women. Most of them had sons or husbands in service. Everyone had to work around sugar and gasoline rationing. Home food preservation was "big", and pressure cookers, when available, were in great demand.

Mrs. Gibbs in Old Times

Mrs. Gibbs crossed many a swinging bridge and hiked up lots of hollows, carrying a small pressure cooker, to give canning demonstrations. She visited homes in inaccessible areas that had never before been visited by a home agent, to tell the housewives what was available to them for just the asking. Most farm families had neither electricity nor telephones at this time. It was after the end of World War II that rural electrification came to Yancey County, and Mrs. Gibbs had to mail out postcards to announce the meetings of her 14 clubs.

Mrs. Gibbs was followed in 1945 by Mrs. Juanita Rush (Evans). Her main contribution was the organization of a black club in Yancey County. This club was a tremendous help to the women and their families.

Home Extension work has come a long way in Yancey County. From the days of pressure cookers to microwave ovens; from quilting parties to fashion shows; from broom making to music workshops; from operation Santa Claus to 1977 flood relief efforts; and from the days of crossing a swinging bridge to help a neighbor, to Mrs. Juanita Proffitt (state president from Cane River) crossing the ocean to Ceylon in 1957 to attend an Association of Country Women of the World meeting. So, in the words of E. E. Hale:

"We have looked up and not down,
We have looked forward and not back,
We have looked out and not in,
And we have lent a hand".

At present there are eight clubs in Yancey County. Following are the home agents who have served Yancey County:

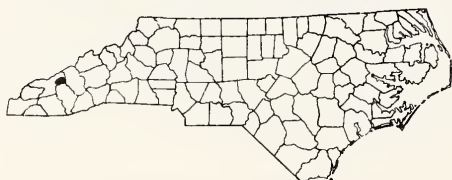
Maria Alley, 1940; Dorothy Turner, 1942; Elizabeth Russell (Gibbs), 1943; Juanita Rush (Evans), 1945; Mary Helen Neill, 1952; Wanda Grèene (Garland), 1953; Sue Nottingham,



Burnsville Extension Homemakers celebrate the club's 50th anniversary with a quilting bee.

1955; June Street, 1958-1963; Virginia Cox (Sutton), 1963; Ruby Corpening, 1964; Alice Hopson, 1965; Mary Margaret Deyton, 1967-1977; Pat Fender, 1977; and Lucy Wilson, 1978 to 1980.

Cherokee Reservation



Homemakers clubs on the Cherokee Reservation have been in existence for many years. Before the local Agricultural Extension Service office was opened, Reservation sewing clubs were established through the schools. These clubs worked on projects in the areas of foods, food preservation, clothing and home sewing projects.

In 1955 a contract was signed with Bureau of Indian Affairs and North Carolina State University for a local Extension Office to be located on the Cherokee Reservation. At this time the school turned over their clubs to the Extension Service. The first home economics agent in Cherokee was Mrs. Margaret Smith who stayed until she became disabled. Miss Jane Butler came in February of 1965 and stayed a year. During her stay, the club name

was changed to Extension homemakers clubs instead of home demonstration clubs. Then, Miss Junetta Pell came in April 1966 and was here until February 1977. In April 1977, Miss Darlene Overman came to the Reservation for a year and half and in October of 1979, Mrs. Gale Dills became assistant home economics Extension agent on the Reservation and is still here.

During the past 25 years, Extension homemakers clubs and their members have been very active. At one time during this 25 years, there were as many as eight active clubs. We now have five active clubs with a total membership of 78. Of these five clubs, two were started in the schools and transferred to Extension in 1955.

Each year, Extension homemakers like to make the public aware of their activities during the year. This is done through an awards program. Each club keeps a score card and the club with most points is "club of the year." A carving was purchased in honor of Mrs. Margaret Smith, the former home economics Extension agent and the club with most points receives the carving for one year. If the same club gets the award for three years in a row, it keeps the carving.

Outstanding Accomplishments

Throughout the years, the Cherokee clubs and their members have made many outstanding accomplishments both on the Reservation and in the state:

- 1967—First annual Extension homemaker Christmas bazaar.
- 1970—Extension club member organized and started the first Reservation public library.
- 1972—First paid male member to an Extension homemaker club in North Carolina was in Cherokee.
- 1974—Cancelled stamps for food program started in North Carolina by Cherokee clubs.
- Several Extension Homemakers Club members have written books.
- Extension club members sponsored the first senior citizens group in Cherokee.
- Extension clubs on Reservation sponsor

an annual Mother's Day dinner in honor of mothers.

- Many of our clubs have given volunteer hours to the hospital and children's home.
- Extension clubs have supported many state and national projects sponsored by the N. C. Extension Homemakers Association.
- Several club members have taken part in tours sponsored by Extension.
- Extension Club members have held workshops to train teachers in native crafts. These workshops have been held in many areas.
- All clubs have taken part in many community projects—clean-up week, public service work, recycling, and 4-H leadership.

These are some of the many accomplishments of the clubs and their members over the past 25 years.

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